



THE INDEPENDENT

3,057 TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 1996 WEATHER Unsettled with thundery showers 40p (inc VAT)

Call to shop benefit fraudsters is the latest attempt to turn Britain into a nation of informers

Watching me, watching you

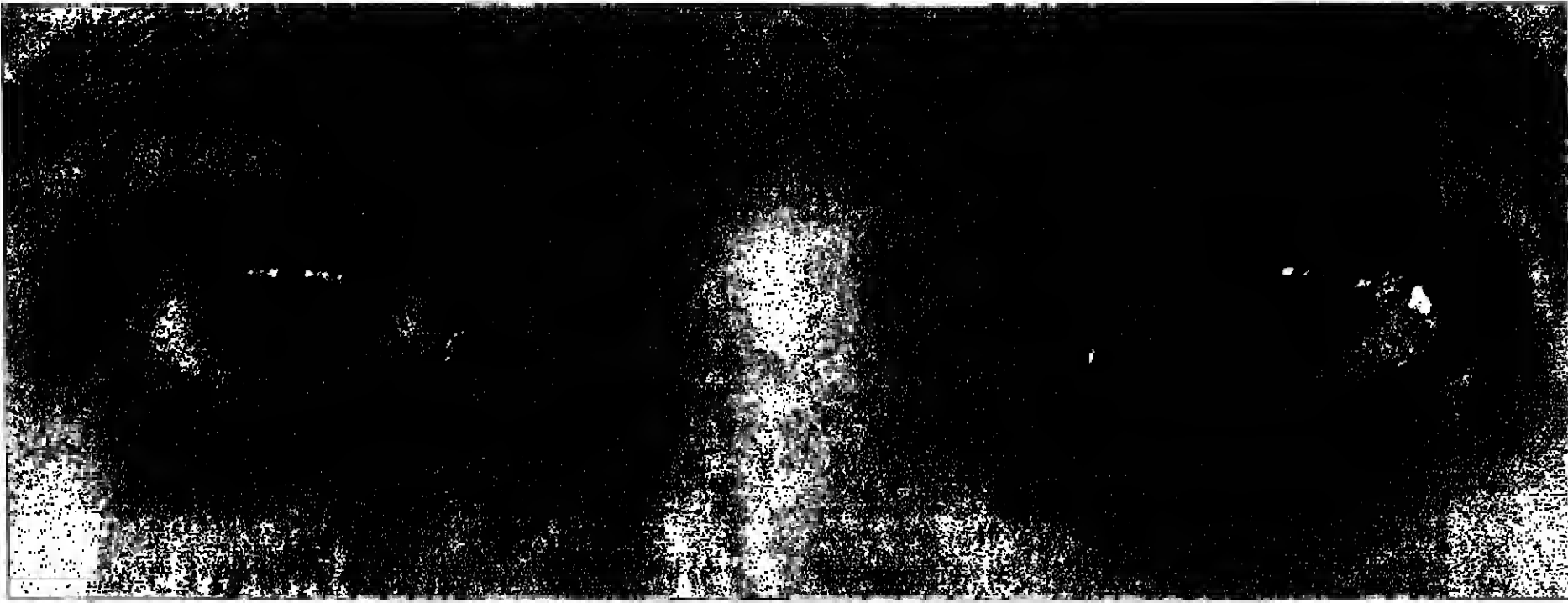
STEVE BOGGAN and LOUISE JURY

Peter Lilley's invitation yesterday for people to shop benefit fraudsters is the latest stage of a largely unnoticed process of turning Britain into a nation of informants.

The "shop-a-cheat" hotline, aimed at cutting the annual £3bn fraud bill, is only one of dozens of schemes, involving anyone from schoolchildren to milkmen, nurtured over the past 10 years in which people are increasingly being asked to spy on their neighbours.

The latest initiative urges the public to snitch on claimants they believe are cheating the system. However, it was immediately criticised by the Unemployment Unit, an independent body, which said a record number of claimants had actually had their benefits cut - and that many labelled "cheats" were not cheating at all.

A culture of informing has developed in Britain over the past decade, fuelled in part by the success of Neighbourhood Watch schemes. There are now 143,000 Neighbourhood Watch schemes covering 6 million homes in England and Wales. Police say they have been a great success, deterring criminals from operating in participating areas and providing intelligence to help catch them when they do.



The schemes' acceptance made it easier to ask the public to become more involved in informing. First, in 1983, came Crimestoppers, a charitable trust set up by the business community in London in conjunction with the police. It provides an anonymous route for informants to pass on intelligence without having to come in direct contact with the police. It now operates throughout the country and offers rewards for those who provide information. So far, tip-offs from the public have resulted in the arrest of 16,591 criminals and the recovery of almost £26.5m in stolen goods.

More recently, however, the Government and the police have been anxious to recruit more controversial informants. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has encouraged young people to inform on other young people by joining Neighbourhood Watch schemes, and introduced "patrolling with a purpose" proposals. Football fans have been asked to ring a hotline about the activities of thugs, and drug users have been urged to "rat on a rat" and expose dealers.

In schemes called "Milk-watch" and "Lookout Post", milkmen and postal workers have been given mobile phones and two-way radios by police forces in Hampshire, Essex and Hertfordshire, to report suspicious people and activities while on their rounds. In Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, postmen are given £10 each time they find a stolen car identified from a police list; and in Wales, Dyfed-Powys police have set up radio links with electricity and gas workers. In Torbay, Devon, taxi and bus drivers are regularly given radio messages by police searching for stolen cars and wanted criminals.

It all sounds quite sinister, but should we be worried? According to those one might expect to raise fears over civil liberties, the answer is no. Liberty, formerly the National Council for Civil Liberties, said yesterday that it was unconcerned about the growth of informing. "We don't see it as a breach of civil liberties or a human rights issue," said a spokeswoman.

So what if the man who came to read your meter tipped off the police about the cannabis plant in your living room? "Quite simply," the spokeswoman said, "you shouldn't have one there. It's a criminal offence."

Doug Henderson, a Labour home affairs spokesman, said: "If these schemes were a real threat to civil liberties, then we would be concerned, but I am not sure that they are. Most of them seem to be gimmicks designed to make it look as if the Government is doing something about crime."

Before communism lost its hold over the Eastern Bloc, it was normal for internal security services to employ utilities workers to spy on the population. However, according to Peter Sommer, of the London School of Economics, an expert in intelligence-gathering, there is a subtle difference in Britain. "There is a difference between asking someone to keep an eye open generally, and asking them specifically to keep an eye on Mr X," he said. "I don't think there is anything to worry about at this level. For some people, it brings back memories of the comfortable world of *Dixon of Dock Green*. It means they can have a quiet word with the village bobby they thought they had lost long ago."

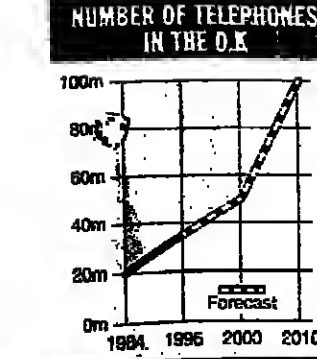
Millions face second round of telephone change as sex calling-cards are cut off

Code chaos as numbers fail to add up again

CHRIS GODSMARK Business Correspondent

A new upheaval in the British "phone system was attacked yesterday as "staggering" and "wearisome" by politicians and business leaders.

On phoneday, 16 months ago, every dialling code in Britain was changed and now the industry watchdog is promising further chaos for millions of users. The proposals, unveiled by the regulator, Ofcom, mean London numbers will be reorganised for the third time since 1981, with similar changes for Belfast, Cardiff, Portsmouth and Southampton.



by the turn of the century. Most mobile-phone dialling codes and many free-phone numbers and premium-rate charge-line codes will also change. In a move likely to cost businesses and consumers millions of pounds, Don Cruickshank, head of Ofcom, said: "I'm not saying it's going to be hassle-free."

Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, Nigel Griffiths, called it "staggering".

"Ofcom ignored warnings that their '01' proposals were deeply flawed. The public and Government are entitled to know why Ofcom refused to listen to the warnings."

The British Chambers of Commerce described the process as "wearisome". The Institute of Directors said: "We can't believe that they could suggest changing the dialling code system again, especially after all the despair it caused last time. If they are going to do this for new numbers then it shouldn't be placing extra burdens on existing businesses."

Ofcom blames the changes on the apparently insatiable appetite for phone lines. Competition between phone companies is also creating de-



Calling cards: Contact information left by prostitutes in Westminster Photograph: Andrew Buiman

mand for spare numbers, which are handed out in blocks of ten thousand, whether they are needed or not.

Phoneday may have created a potential 8 billion new numbers but shortages in some areas mean the five cities listed yesterday will run out of numbers by the turn of the century. The plan is to use '02' for a new set of shorter codes. London's 0171 and 0181 would change to 020 and 023, with the addition of the number 8 to local numbers, creating 160 million possible new numbers.

More radically, Londoners could return to a single code, 020, for the whole of the capital. The previous 01 code for Greater London was abandoned in 1990. Belfast, Cardiff, Portsmouth and Southampton would also move to 02 codes and seven-figure local numbers. Mobile numbers will not escape either, with all the existing codes switching to an 07 prefix.

A further 21 towns and cities could change to 02 codes early in the next century if demand for numbers does not stop growing. One solution being studied by Ofcom is to give businesses a new code structure beginning with 05, which would leave residential customers' codes unaffected. But this idea has come too late to save London, or Cardiff, or Southampton. A consultation period will last until October, with final proposals due in December.

Businesses will have to reprint stationery, reprogramme switchboards and replace signs. Pressed about the cost, Mr Cruickshank admitted he "didn't know," but insisted it would be less than last year's reorganisation.

The number game, page 2

End of the line for prostitutes

JOJO MOYES

Telecom companies yesterday signed up for a Westminster City Council plan to stop prostitutes' calling cards littering phone boxes in Britain's inner cities.

From mid-September, British Telecom and all telephone operators will ensure that prostitutes who advertise their numbers in payphones will have incoming calls blocked.

The numbers will be obtained daily from cards collected nationwide, but especially in problem areas such as London. The cards will be processed centrally and the advertised numbers investigated.

Customers who advertise in payphones will be warned, and can forestall action by promising not to advertise again.

Robert Moreland, chairman of planning and environment for Westminster, said that the council had become increasingly concerned about the problem. Previous attempts to ban the cards have slipped through legislative loopholes.

"Prostitutes' cards are increasingly explicit and graphic and are causing concern to our residents, business people and visitors," he said.

"We have made various prosecutions under various bits of legislation but they have not really been effective, partly because of the limited fines that can be charged."

Bob Warner, BT's director of payphones, said that the company had tried various methods to eradicate the cards.

"But within minutes, and sometimes within seconds, they just got replaced," he said.

"There's now a lot more competition so simply stopping people advertising BT numbers in kiosks wouldn't work. We had to get other telephone operators to join in."

Around 150,000 cards are now removed every week from telephone kiosks in central London alone.

An eight-week campaign to remove cards from payphones in Westminster in 1994 harvested more than 1 million cards. They are so common, police say, that children collect them "like cigarette cards".

"The going rate for installing cards is £10 per 100 cards," said a police spokesman. "Most vice officers work for a number of precincts, so they're earning in excess of £100 per day."

As competition increased, the vice carders have become aggressive, threatening anyone attempting to remove them.

Investigations by the Metropolitan Police suggest that most cards removed from London's telephone boxes relate to just 200 numbers.

"Carding" is a relatively new phenomenon, which seems to be peculiar to London, Brighton and Manchester.

QUICKLY

Trade ban on Iran
President Clinton yesterday set the stage for a new confrontation with America's allies and trading partners by signing into law a bill punishing foreign companies that invest in Libya and Iran - the latter is now Washington's prime suspect for the Saudi barracks bombing that killed 19 US servicemen last June. Page 8

Monopoly on hold
The Government last night suspended the Post Office's monopoly for the first time in a quarter of a century after five 24-hour strikes were announced. Page 2

New Penguin chief
Penguin is to have a Hollywood film chief as its new senior executive, the publisher's owner, Pearson, announced. Page 5

CONTENTS

Section 1	
BUSINESS & CITY	14-18
COMMENT	11-13
CROSSWORD	22
GAZETTE	10
LEADING ARTICLES	11
LETTERS	17
SHARES	19-22
SPORT	
Section 2	
ARCHITECTURE	16-17
ARTS	11-13
CROSSWORD	26
FASHION	14-15
HEALTH	6-9
LIVING	4-5
MEDIA	18-21
TELEVISION & RADIO	27-28
WEATHER	25



Stay with us on business this Summer for at least 2 nights between 22 July and 5 September '96 (Sunday to Thursday) on our rack or corporate rates and we'll give you one weekend night FREE. With 78 hotels to choose from throughout the UK and Ireland, it's easy to see why we're number one for business travellers.

FORTE Posthouse

For more details of this special '3 for 2' offer or to make a booking please call, up to 9pm, 7 days a week

0800 40 40 40

or call your travel agent

هكذا من الأصل

news

Major 'powerless' to stop Tory jousting

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

John Major has privately expressed frustration that signs of a Tory recovery for the election are being harmed by campaigning for the party leadership by members of the Cabinet.

A senior Tory source said Mr Major had told colleagues that he feels powerless to stop their manoeuvring. "What can I do?" he has told friends.

The disclosure came as Brian Mawhinney, chairman of the Tory Party, hailed three surveys as evidence that the "feelgood factor" had arrived and that wavering Tory voters were returning to the fold.

One survey by Opinion Research Business for stockbrokers James Capel, said support for the Conservatives was at 79 per cent among Tory voters, the

highest since April last year. It coincided with a Barclays Bank report saying that the economy was showing signs of rapid improvement, helped by a rise in consumer spending and a surge in the housing market. Another report, by the investment bank Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said the latest economic data had forced even the most cynical gloom-mongers to "throw in the towel".

Home-buyers were given a boost last week when the Halifax Building Society said the 5.3 per cent increase in prices in the year to July had been the highest for seven years.

"Thanks to the decisions taken by this Government, the feelgood factor is back and is here to stay," said Dr Mawhinney.

Labour leadership sources shrugged off the Tories' hopes of rescue from defeat at the



Right-wing rivals: John Redwood (left) and Michael Portillo

election. "It's actually 67 per cent of former Tory voters, which is a shift of only 3 per cent. It still means that a third of former Tory voters won't vote Tory again, which is bad news for the Government," said a Blair aide. However, Labour

sources privately accept that Labour's big lead cannot survive until polling day, and Tony Blair has repeatedly warned against complacency.

The Prime Minister, currently on holiday with his family at a villa on the French

Riviera, loaned by Lord Harris, an honorary Tory party treasurer, fears that the open competition between John Redwood, Michael Portillo, and other members of the Cabinet, could undermine Tory chances.

Some Major supporters have tried to halt the competition for the leadership by suggesting that the vacancy will not arise, and that Mr Major will stay on, even if the Tories are defeated.

But the problems of securing a united policy on Europe have continued to dog Mr Major's chances. Euro-sceptics packed their bags for the summer convinced they were going to lose the election, and planning for the leadership contest.

Michael Howard, the Euro-sceptic Home Secretary, is emerging as the front-runner for the right-wing 92 Group. Some

senior members believe he has broader appeal than Mr Redwood and is less prone to tactical errors than Mr Portillo, who was widely condemned at last year's party conference for his "SAS" speech.

Mr Portillo, the Defence Secretary, increased the pressure on Mr Major to harden his policy on a single European currency by warning at the weekend that a decision on joining the "first wave" of a single European currency was coming "quite soon".

Although he stuck to the Government's agreed line that monetary union would have to be judged on its merits nearer the time, he gave a clear hint that the "wait and see" policy cannot be sustained. "This is a big decision and it's coming, or certainly the decision as to whether we would join in a first wave is coming, quite soon."

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

A former soldier yesterday pleaded guilty to bombing an Army barracks 22 years ago. Peter McMullan, 49, admitted planting four bombs which devastated the Claro Barracks in Ripon, North Yorkshire, in March 1974. More than 100 soldiers escaped injury in the blast.

Armed police surrounded York Crown Court as McMullan, from Co Antrim, Ulster, arrived leaning heavily on a stick. He spoke only to confirm his name and to plead guilty to four charges under the Explosives Act. A former Parachute Regiment cook, he was extradited from the US in March. He had fought extradition since 1978.

A call to fit equipment to prevent collisions between aircraft has been turned down by the Civil Aviation Authority in response to a report of a near miss over Biggin Hill in Kent. The collision was only averted by the quick thinking of an air traffic controller and the aircraft came within 200 feet vertically, and 1,000 feet horizontally, which is well below the normal safety requirements.

The independent joint air proximity assessment panel, which investigates near misses between aircraft, recommended that all aircraft should be fitted with a Traffic Collision Avoidance System, following its finding that there was a serious risk of collision between two aircraft. In its response, the CAA said that the matter was being dealt with at a European level and the fitting of TCAS equipment had a target date of January 2000. *Christian Wolmar*

Police officers will not face criminal proceedings over the death in custody which prompted last December's Brixton riots, it was disclosed yesterday. The death of 25-year-old Wayne Douglas, shortly after his arrest for alleged aggravated burglary, prompted a protest meeting which was followed by widespread violence in the south London neighbourhood.

There were complaints that officers, who used long-handled batons during the arrest, may have employed excessive force. But two post mortems showed Mr Douglas died of a heart attack. The Crown Prosecution Service said in a statement: "After careful consideration senior lawyers decided that there is insufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction." The circumstances surrounding Mr Douglas's death were investigated by a team of officers from the Metropolitan Police's complaints investigation branch, supervised by the Police Complaints Authority.

The German government sought to allay fears about milk, declaring that virtually no British dairy products were sold in Germany and the local products were safe. Conscious of the panic whipped up by the first BSE crisis in the spring, Bonn's agriculture and health ministers held a crisis meeting with experts, which ended with a pronouncement that consumers had nothing to fear.

Bonn is calling on EU experts to carry out a further study into the conclusions of last week's British findings. In addition, Germany ordered a ban on the slaughter of the last-born calves from cows originating from British herds that have not been certified as free from BSE. *Inna Karas*

Detectives have launched an investigation into alleged child abuse at a school for autistic children, dating back 20 years. The inquiry will centre on allegations of abuse at Longdon Hall school, near Rugby, Staffordshire, in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The school is privately-run and is one of a number in the Honored group of schools, based nearby in Derby.

Post strike 'to blame' for halt to monopoly

LOUISE JURY

The Government last night suspended the Post Office monopoly for the first time in a quarter century after five 24-hour strikes were announced.

The first stoppage went ahead from the early hours today after the Communications Workers Union (CWU) said negotiations with management had reached an impasse.

The union condemned the suspension as "coming close to outlawing postal strikes in the UK", but Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, said he had made it clear he would act.

The industrial action left him with "no alternative but to seek as far as possible to protect the interests of the businesses and domestic customers".

Blaming union leaders for the continued dispute, he said: "It is wholly unacceptable that a group of extremists within the CWU are able to hold the country to economic ransom. It is simply wrong for a public service monopoly to behave in this way."

The suspension will open the way to rival courier and parcel firms to enter the market for the next month. The period could be extended for a further three months if no resolution is achieved.

Under Government rules, private firms are forbidden from charging less than £1 for delivering an item, effectively ruling them out of the domestic market for letters.

Mr Lang's decision was met with "sadness" from the Post Office, which sought to blame union leaders for refusing to

allow members to vote on its latest offer.

John Roberts, Post Office chief executive, said CWU leaders had reached a settlement which would give postal workers job security, a shorter working week, better pay and training and longer holidays.

"But the union executive, which is clearly in disarray, is refusing to put it to its members. Royal Mail is being asked by employees from all around the country why they are not being asked to vote on the deal."

The package was still on the table, but further strike action would make it "increasingly difficult" to sustain it, Mr Roberts said.

He added: "A longer suspension of the monopoly could lead to a loss of business, and the undermining of the universal postal service. That would have very serious consequences for every employee."

But Alan Johnson, CWU's joint general secretary, refused to accept blame for the loss of the monopoly and criticised the Royal Mail for refusing to re-open negotiations.

"I don't think there is a hope of any imminent settlement of this dispute, given the attitude of the Royal Mail management," he said.

Team-working is the main sticking point. It involves post workers, many of whom earn less than £10,000 a year, taking some responsibility for self-management.

Reaction from alternative parcel carriers was muted. Colin Beesley, of UPS, said it had no plans to step into the strike.



Horn of plenty: A full ram's head ceremonial snuff mull, circa 1845, which is among Scottish works of art to be auctioned by Sotheby's on 19-20 August at the Gleneagles Hotel, near Stirling. Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Playing the telephone number game around the world

The UK is not the only country which is going through the hell of telephone renumbering.

This year, Australia has just added a digit to every phone number, the US has introduced a new tier of freephone numbers, and France has reorganised Paris's phone numbers and is contemplating a wider-scale reorganisation of the whole country's numbers.

Not so long ago, Tokyo added another digit to cope with its rapidly-growing demand for new numbers.

The fact that we are about to undergo another round of changes simply reflects our more liberalised regime, say experts - who say that other countries will have the same problems in years to come.

"Telecommunications is the fastest-growing business in the world," said Stephen Young, of the telecommunications consultancy Ovum yesterday. Figures from the International Telecommunications Union back that up: although half the world's population has never made a phone call (presumably for lack of access), at

the end of 1993, the official waiting list for telephone service worldwide was almost 45 million people, a historical high, and worldwide investment in telecommunications that year reached US\$ 130 billion.

"Our problems simply reflect the fact that we liberalised before everyone else - in 1984. But nobody saw how numbering was going to become important as a competitive issue. It was a technical, arcane subject for a very small crowd."

No longer. While it is easy to think that the US must have somehow hit on a perfect structure - with its three-digit area code, and seven-digit "local" numbers - that is deceptive. The 212 area code used to cover all of New York.

Then in 1985, the 718 code was introduced to cover the city's five boroughs, excluding Manhattan and the Bronx; in 1993 it absorbed the

Bronx too. Now, 212 only covers Manhattan, and 2 million of the possible 10 million numbers are allocated.

"We think we're in pretty good shape here," said a spokesman for Nynex, the local phone company.

Change is on the way. The US's 1996 Telecommunications Act will allow competition among local telephone companies, rather than the monopolies that presently exist.

The likely effect will be to create the same pressures on numbers as has happened in the past decade in the UK. In the US, Bell Corporation is in charge of organising a national renumbering plan - which they know will have to come in the next few years.

Other countries will also have had to deal with the pressure on their number systems. The "Asian tigers" have the seeming advantage that tele-

phones were not widely available until recently, so that they have room to grow.

But their numbering systems will quickly begin to creak under the strain, just as Japan's has done. "Once you pull your finger out of the dyke you just don't know what consequences there will be," said Mr Young.

Certainly in the UK, the consequences have been clear: phone use has exploded. Someone in a small business can easily have telephone numbers for their home, home fax, business, business fax and mobile phone.

Those hoping for an easy solution are out of luck: personal numbers will not solve the problem of the growing demand for numbers, as many people will want to keep home and work identities separate.

On that basis, renumbering is the only option. The only help that technology can offer is more intelligent telephones. With those, we will increasingly store numbers together with names - then we will be able to dial the latter rather than the former.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria	...S40	Wlands	...F5.00	OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS
Belgium	...J16.00	Italy	...L4.50	At mail, 13 weeks Europe £10.10; Zone 1 (Middle East, Africa, Asia, Australasia) £15.00; Zone 2 (Far East and Australasia) £20.70. To order, please send cheque payable to International Media Services Ltd, 43 Millbrook, London E14 9PR or telephone 0275 538 5288. Credit cards welcome.
Canada	...P45.00	Malaysia	...E6.00	BACK ISSUES
Cyprus	...E24.20	Norway	...N4.20	Back issues of the Independent are available from: Heston Newspapers, telephone 0998 402455.
Denmark	...D18.00	Spain	...E6.30	
Finland	...F14.00	Sweden	...S12.00	
France	...F14.00	Switzerland	...S14.00	
Germany	...D44.50	USA	...\$3.00	
Greece	...G14.00			
Luxembourg	...L16.00			

Use this voucher to try our 12-page Summer of Sport pull-out this Wednesday

THE INDEPENDENT for only 10p on Wednesday

To the Reader: Hand this voucher to the newspaper with a copy of The Independent on Wednesday 7 August 1996 and pay only 10p. (Home delivery customers have until 4 September 1996 to present this voucher to your newspaper. If you have any problems redeeming your voucher, please call telephone 0800 686 821.)

To the Retailer: Please accept this voucher as part payment for The Independent on Wednesday 7 August 1996, (reader pays 10p). To receive your normal terms plus a 2p handling fee, please provide your wholesaler's name and your box no. and return the completed voucher to your wholesaler by 4 September 1996. This voucher is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer - it is valid for The Independent only.

WHOLESALE NAME: RETAILER'S BOX NO:

To the Wholesaler: Please credit the returning retailer with 32p (RCL 37p). This includes 2p Retailer Handling Allowance per voucher. To claim your credit together with 1p per voucher handled, please send to: Wholesaler Redemption Ltd, 17 Orion Court, Cranage Farm Rd, Basildon, Essex SS14 3DB.

Reader's name: Address: Ref: SP7W10P

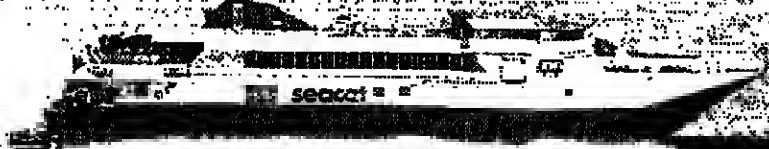


FOLKESTONE TO BOULOGNE FROM

£39

SINGLE APEX FARE CAR + 5

SEACAT. THE STYLISH WAY TO FRANCE IN 55 MINUTES



Glide from Folkestone to Boulogne on the SeaCat. Motorists enjoy the extra comfort of Premier Class: complimentary refreshment, newspaper, refresher towel and duty and tax free goods brought to your seat at no extra cost. Our prices are customer friendly too. SeaCat from Folkestone to Boulogne from £39 single Apex fare car + 5 or just £78 Standard Apex return, (please quote ASO when booking). With 6 scheduled return crossings daily on the SeaCat, it's easy to find a good time to cross.

So call Hoverspeed now or see your local travel agent.

CALL RESERVATIONS 01304 240 241

Our internet address is: <http://www.hoverspeed.co.uk/>

HOVER SPEED

STILL THE FASTEST WAY TO FRANCE

Terms and conditions: Book now and travel by 31 August 1996 or book 14 days prior for later departures. Restricted space, subject to availability. No amendments or cancellations permitted.

150 من الاجل

Film chief to be the new head of Penguin

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

One of the best-known names in British publishing, Penguin, is to get a Hollywood film chief as its new senior executive, the company's owner, Pearson, said yesterday.

Michael Lynton, the British-born, Disney-trained manager responsible for the cult hit film *Mr. Holland's Opus* and the more traditional box-office smash *Crimson Tide*, is to become the chief executive of Penguin worldwide on 1 October, bringing Pearson hopes of some vintage Hollywood magic to the world of British book publishing.

Mr Lynton, 36, was also re-

sponsible for starting Disney's first foray into book publishing, which includes the Hyperion, Mouse Works and Disney imprints. He replaces Peter Mayer, who has decided to return to his family publishing company, John Mackinson, the finance director at Pearson, said: "Peter was more of a publisher-manager, while Michael is a manager-publisher."

He joins at a crucial time for Penguin, and indeed for the whole of British publishing. The collapse of the Net Book Agreement (NBA) last year introduced fierce price competition into what had been a fixed and rather staid market.

Mr Lynton said from New York yesterday: "The changes

in the UK are not dissimilar to what has been happening in the film business. There's been increasing competition and a much shorter time between when a book is published and when it is clear it will either be a hit or not. That's like films these days, which are all about the opening weekend gross."

Penguin Books in Britain has had a difficult time with the demise of the NBA but its fortunes had been reviving under Mr Mayer. The initial strong customer response to a range of special 60p minibooks were one reason for the excitement, although the market has since dried up — the casualty, Mr Mackinson said, of too many copycat rivals.

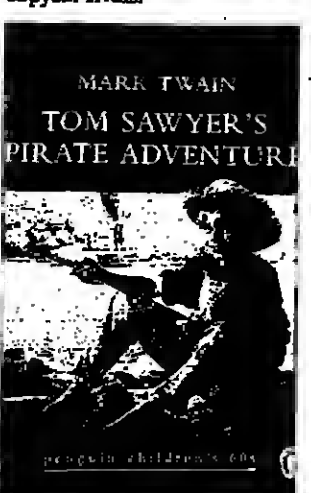
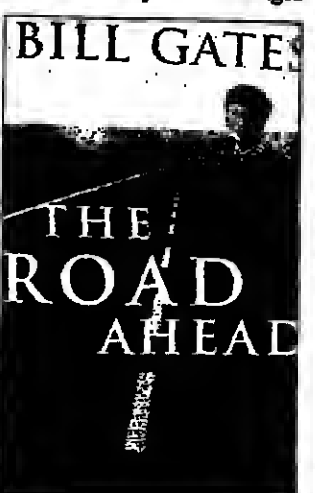
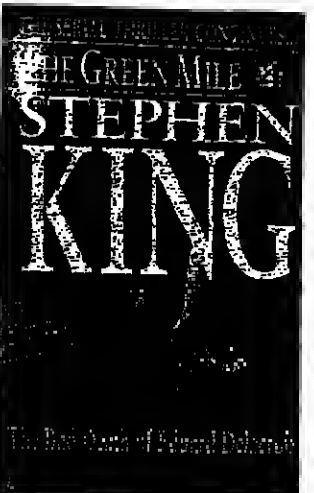
Since then, Penguin UK has benefited from a reasonably strong "frontlist" of new titles, and the sector's best backlist. The performance of the US company has been even stronger, helped particularly by a few key bestsellers, not least Stephen King's new "part-book" concept, *The Green Mile*, all four instalments of which found their way on to the best-seller lists.

Mr Lynton was mum yesterday on his intended strategy at Penguin. But insiders at Pearson hope he will be able to do for Penguin what he did at Disney Books, building on strong brand-names, particularly cartoon characters from its film library.

On how book publishing has been changing, Mr Lynton was more forthcoming: "You either have to have a powerful franchise or a very powerful brand, like Disney, that the company can rally behind. Once you have that, the business can be very effective."

Mr Mackinson echoed that view: "Certainly Michael has shown he knows what to do with intellectual property rights. IPR is at the centre of Pearson's attempts to build a modern media conglomerate, building on its strengths as a publisher, television producer and newspaper proprietor."

One hope is to create franchises through its publishing arm that can be exploited in film, on CD-Rom or through electronic publishing.



Taking off: Penguins that have done well lately — Stephen King's *Green Mile* 'part-book'; Bill Gates's *Road Ahead*; and one of the 60p minibooks

'This was the job offer of a lifetime'

MATHEW HORSMAN

The reincarnation of Michael Lynton as the chief executive of Penguin, the book publishers, marks the latest step in an impressive career which has seen a rapid rise through the Disney ranks.

He will leave behind the top job at Hollywood Pictures, one of Disney's three production studios, and stints at Disney magazines, and Disney Books.

"This really was the job offer of a lifetime," Mr Lynton said yesterday. "I spoke to [Disney

chiefs] Michael Eisner and Michael Ovitz, and they suggested some things I might do if I stayed at Disney," said Mr Lynton. "But once they realised I wanted to do this, they were wonderful."

Just 36, Mr Lynton was born in the UK of German parents, and moved to the United States after several years in Holland. He attended Harvard University as an undergraduate and then took a management degree at the same institution. He has been at Disney ever since.

He started the Disney Pub-

lishing arm, and ran the division responsible for such magazines as *Discover*, *Family Fun* and *Disney Adventures*.

While at Disney, he signed a joint venture with Penguin to publish a few books, although the arrangement is no longer in place. "I got to know the Penguin people quite well, and got along with them," he said.

For the past two years, Mr Lynton has been president of Hollywood Pictures, where his output included *White Men Weep* and *Dangerous Minds*. While he declined to say so

yesterday, it is clear that Mr Lynton was looking for a way to leave Los Angeles, a town which he believes is not the best place for children. With a baby daughter just three days old, and her two-year-old sister, the family would be better off on the East Coast, he hinted.

And how much is a former Hollywood chief worth to Pearson? "I'd rather not talk about the financial aspects," he said demurely, but it is clear that the salary, with share options, will soothe the pain of resettling in New York.



Chain gang: A competitor at the World Unicycling Championships (Unicon VIII) which began yesterday in Guildford, Surrey. The first Unicon held in Europe opens to the public over the weekend; organisers expect records to tumble. Photograph: Philip Meech

Record fine for polluting river

NICHOLAS SCHOON
Environment Correspondent

Britain's second largest water company was yesterday fined a record £175,000 for poisoning a river and killing thousands of fish. It was the largest pollution fine a water company has ever received.

Severn Trent Water admitted leaking ferric sulphate — used to treat drinking water — into one of the best stretches of salmon river in Wales, killing all but 2 per cent of the stock.

It was the company's 34th conviction since privatisation seven years ago. Cardiff Crown Court heard, Judge John Prosser told company executives that the leak was due to a combination of design defects, gross mismanagement and inferior maintenance. "To be convicted so many times shows that the management of the company is very slack indeed," he said.

Prosecutor Mark Bailey, acting for the Government's new Environment Agency, said the pollution from Severn Trent's Elan Valley water treatment works at Rhayader, Powys, flowed down the small river Elan and into the Wye, where it killed 33,000 young salmon in June last year.

"The sheer number of fish killed is higher than [in] any other incident," he said. The chemical had turned the river water acid, causing large quantities of aluminium to be released from sediments. This metal is highly toxic to fish.

The company, which pleaded guilty to polluting the river, was also ordered to pay costs and compensation of almost £44,000, including £8,500 towards restocking with fish.

Severn Trent's barrister, Benjamin Nicholls, told the court that the chemicals leaked through a hairline crack in a pipe, which was repaired as soon as it was spotted.

After the verdict, Peter Gough, of the Environment Agency, said it showed that "thorough investigations into incidents such as this pay off. Companies must realise the seriousness of their actions."

Severn Trent said it was distressed by the size of the fine, but had no plans to appeal.

Appeals are at risk from Home Office shortages

MICHAEL O'KELLY

Investigations into possible miscarriages of justice with regard to the Bridgewater Four and other key cases were put at risk by Home Office staff shortages and a rising tide of inquiries into police misconduct, documents obtained by *The Independent* reveal.

The papers show that the inquiry into a dossier from lawyers of the four men convicted of murdering newspaper delivery boy Carl Bridgewater in 1979, was conducted largely by one official working from home at weekends.

The investigation resulted in a further police inquiry but Kenneth Clarke, then Home Secretary, decided not to refer the case back to the Court of Appeal. New evidence later came to light which resulted in a decision last month to refer the case. Jim Nichol, lawyer for the men (one of whom is now dead) said last night that he would have taken the Home Office to court if he had been aware of the staffing crisis.

The documents show that in August and October of 1991 se-

nior officials believed that C3, the division responsible for investigating claims of miscarriage of justice, was understaffed and swamped by an ever-increasing workload. Staff morale, one said, was "at an all-time low". Police misconduct, and publicising wrongful convictions such as the Guildford Four and involving the West Midlands Serious

current work at home at weekends, the HEO responsible for the Cleland case [another possible miscarriage of justice] led to be taken off her regular duties for a time to review the case speedily; these were reallocated and, of course, burdened other hard-pressed officers; routine work and target dates are badly affected when a major case

Hard-pressed officers worked at weekends, say leaked reports

Crime Squad, meant that more people were aware of their right to appeal for a review of their cases. The division could not cope with the extra work.

On 6 August, 1991, Mrs M Mitev from the legal advisers section wrote: "There is no spare capacity at HEO [higher executive officer] level to undertake one-off tasks or properly absorb a major campaign case without other work suffering, for example, the HEO responsible for the Hickey [Bridgewater] case did most of

lands on an officer's desk..." Requesting additional staff, Mrs Mitev reported: "...it is becoming increasingly difficult to give full and proper attention to the cases and I fear staff morale may be suffering."

On 17 August she pointed out: "This type of work is particularly demanding and tiring... I would like to repeat my request for additional staff... [morale] is now at an all-time low."

A month later, Robert Baxter, then head of C3, com-

plained: "Major campaign cases such as the Hickeys, [Derek] Bentley [hanged for the murder of a police officer] and Sara Thornton [freed earlier this year after a Court of Appeal ordered a retrial] are having to be absorbed on caseworkers' desks within their routine caseload. I am concerned that if staff are increasingly overburdened, too much pressure of work could lead to vital aspects of the case not being properly addressed."

Mr Nichol said: "It is absolutely disgraceful that innocent people could be left to rot in prison because of under-manning."

"I was specifically assured that meticulous investigations were being undertaken but I now know that they led to me, to the public and to Parliament."

Iris Bentley, whose brother Derek was hanged for peripheral involvement in the murder of a policeman in the Fifties, said she was "sickened to hear that the government cared so little about righting injustice".

A Home Office spokesman said that it was not the department's policy to comment on leaked documents.

New review body set to take over

Patricia Wynn Davies reports on how the appeals commission will operate

Government involvement in resolving claims of miscarriage of justice will finally come to an end in the autumn when the Independent Criminal Case Review Commission belatedly begins work nearly three years after its recommendation by the 1993 Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

But even this much-needed reform has attracted its share of advance criticism because the new body will not mean an end to the police investigating themselves. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, decided that the commission should not have its own, independent, investigating officers. Instead, it will use outside police forces for its inquiries, including those involving investigations of alleged malpractice by other forces.

The commission will have the right to supervise police in-

quiries if this is "desirable in the public interest" — but is under no duty to do so. The nearest equivalent body is the Police Complaints Authority, which has failed to garner widespread confidence that it is sufficiently at arm's length from the police.

Some critics have warned that these failings risk the credibility of the entire exercise.

There is little doubt, however, that the new body is an improvement on the current system where the Home Secretary decides which cases to refer back to the Court of Appeal, aided by an understaffed, ill-qualified and insufficiently-resourced C3.

The commission will not, for example, be restricted to scrutinising cases involving "fresh

evidence", but will be able to look at cases where potentially crucial information has been overlooked or misunderstood, or where the accused was the victim of bad legal advice.

A further novel feature will be the body's power to consider cases from Northern Ireland, and those originally heard in magistrates' courts.

A flood of applications is expected in the commission's first year — possibly up to 1,600, plus several hundred already under Home Office consideration — many of which would have been rejected under the old system.

Mr Howard rejected suggestions that the commission's chairman should not be a judge but has come the less appointed a non-judicial figure, Sir

Frederick Crawford, vice-chancellor of Aston University.

Although no building has yet been found to house the new body, the selection of at least 10 other commissioners is currently under way, by a panel comprising Sir Frederick, a Home Office official and two independent members.

One-third of the commissioners will have to be legally qualified and the other two-thirds must have knowledge and experience of the criminal justice system.

In addition, about 60 permanent staff are to be recruited, and in marked contrast to the current set-up at C3, a third of them must be lawyers. There are concerns that some existing C3 staff will be appointed, which will raise the inevitable accusation that practices and attitudes of the past will be perpetuated.

Direct Line can help make your savings grow.

	£500-£4,999	£5,000-£9,999	£10,000-£24,999	£25,000-£49,999	£50,000-£99,999
Direct Line Instant Access Account	4.50%	4.75%	5.50%	5.65%	5.75%
Halifax Solid Gold (90 Day Notice)	2.75%	3.05%	3.80%	4.30%	4.50%
Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	3.10%	3.85%	4.60%	4.85%
Yorkshire Building Society Key 90 Plus	N/A	N/A	4.20%	4.65%	5.15%

All rates are gross* and correct at 1st August 1996.

Are your savings growing too slowly? Then you should be saving with Direct Line. Take a look at the table and you'll see that our rates are higher than these building society 90 day accounts. What's more, with Direct Line you don't have to give 90 days notice because we offer instant access. So if you want more money for your money you know who to call.

0181 667 1121

LONDON

0161 833 1121

MANCHESTER

0141 221 1121

GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. IND17

Savings provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5BH, a member of the Deposit Protection Scheme established under the Banking Act 1987 (as amended). Payments under the scheme are limited to 90% of a depositor's total deposits subject to a maximum payment to any one depositor of £18,000 (or £33,000 if greater). Further details of the Scheme are available on request. *The gross rate is the rate paid without the deduction of income tax. All rates shown are subject to variation and are based on annual payment of interest. For your added security, all telephone calls will be recorded and the recording kept secure. We may also monitor telephone calls with the aim of improving our service to you. Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with the permission of Direct Line Insurance plc.

arts news

Artists in light at the end of their tunnel vision

LOUISE JURY

Two foot tunnels transformed by lights and sound into art installations will return to normal tomorrow after baffling, intriguing and irritating pedestrians.

Artists Tanya Harris and Goldberry Broad will dismantle the works created in the Greenwich and Woolwich tunnels, underneath the Thames in south-east London, two weeks ago and begin planning their next art venture.

The two friends, both 23, spent months of talking to Greenwich council, carrying out safety tests and proving no one would be at risk before they were given permission for the project.

They worked with sound artists Simon West, James Boxall and Giz Flotations to create the effect of a heart pounding in an artery in Greenwich and the blue-green sensation of being underwater in Woolwich.

"We would have liked more dramatic effects but we had to water it down, particularly in Greenwich, so the security cameras still worked," Ms Broad said. "But we are satisfied with it in terms of the effect it's having on people."

Although public reaction has been mixed, a council spokesman said: "We had to ask them to turn the lights up but we're very happy to let them use the tunnels."



Subterranean blues: Pedestrians in the Woolwich Tunnel, where blue and green lights create underwater effects

Photograph: Adrian Cook

NOW INCLUDES
MONDEO LX

THE FIRST WORK OF ART DESIGNED BY AN ACCOUNTANT.



How can it be art,
when there's no pain, no suffering?
You simply drive out
of the showroom in a brand new
Escort LX, Si, Ghia, Ghia X, or Mondeo
LX having paid for only half of it.
After that, there's no need to come

ESCORT 1.8 LX 5dr [†]	Typical example
Mileage (per annum)	12,000
Recommended Retail Price	£12,625.00
Estimated on the Road Price*	£13,260.00
Deposit (%)	50%
Initial Payment	£6,630.00
Balance	£6,630.00
Total Charge for Credit	£0.00
Total Credit Price	£13,260.00
Term (months)	25
Monthly Payments	£60.00
Optional Final Purchase Payment ^{††} (Minimum Guaranteed Future Value) of	£6,630.00
APR	0.0%

back for two years, when you pay
for the other half.
In between, you pay absolutely nothing. No
interest, no repayments.
You can even give it back at any time.
A masterpiece in simplicity.



AVAILABLE UNTIL AUGUST 31st

*Subject to availability. Applies to Escort LX, Si, Ghia and Ghia X models (excludes Cabriolet) and Mondeo LX registered before 31/08/96. *On the road price based on manufacturer's recommended retail price at the time of going to press, optional supplier and misc. point, VAT at 17.5% and £635 covering delivery charges, 12 months road fund licence, number plates and cost of fuel. Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition if the vehicle is returned before the end of the finance agreement or if the optional final purchase payment is not made. Whichever quotations are available upon request from Ford Credit Europe plc, PO Box 46, Borewood, Essex, CH13 3AH. Guarantee and indemnities may be required. Finance is provided subject to status to over 18s only. Certain categories of business users are ineligible.

Much ado over 'new work' by the Bard

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Arts Correspondent

The complex world of Shakespearean scholarship is to be stung into debate later this month by the publication of a book stating that the Bard was the sole author of the anonymous play *Edward III*.

The claim is being made by Dr Eric Sams, who wrote the account of Shakespeare's first 30 years, *The Real Shakespeare*, which portrayed the playwright father as a farmer, as well as a glover and wool-dealer.

Dr Sams' latest study, *Shakespeare's Edward III: An Early Play Restored to the Canon*, argues that the dramatist of *Edward III*'s invasion of France and assault on the Countess of Salisbury's virtue was wholly written by Shakespeare — not partially, as is usually suggested.

Academics have claimed that while Shakespeare may be the author of the second act of the play, the remaining four are by another, lesser, hand. As a result it was excluded from the influential *Complete Works* edited by Professor Stanley Wells for Oxford University Press.

Dr Sams argues, in the book to be published by Yale University Press on 22 August, that Shakespeare wrote acts I, III, IV and V of the play in about 1589 — at the end of his so-called "lost years" between 1585 and 28 — before publishing his "first" play, *Titus Andronicus*, in 1594. In the early 1590s, he came back to *Edward III*, rewriting the second act and infusing it with the poetry of his sonnets.

It is particularly apt to bring forward the theory now, Dr Sams says, because this year marks the quatercentenary of the play's original publication. Other plays accepted into Shakespeare's canon after the First Folio in 1623 are *Pericles*, and his late play, *The Two Noble Kinsmen*.

"The established view is that Shakespeare wrote almost nothing until he was 28, when

he began writing on an accomplished level, which strikes me as ludicrous," Dr Sams said yesterday.

"It is like saying Mozart wrote nothing until he was 30, then he wrote *Don Giovanni*. The fact is that he went to London aged 18, with a wife and son to support, and needed money. I have no doubt that he wrote plays during that period and that *Edward III* was one of them."

Dr Sams charts numerous echoes between the play and Shakespeare's canon, particularly the sonnets. Phrases like "their scarlet ornaments" and "lilies that fester smell far worse than weeds" occur in both.

Other parallels include the number of new words contained in the play — as in every accepted Shakespeare work — including "clefures", "bed-blotting", "snailly", "hugey" and "death-procuring". Dr Sams also cites numerous words used in *Edward III* that are peculiar to Shakespeare, or of which he is the first known user, such as "hegule", "clangoni" and "rash" (operating quickly).

The reason that such a claim for *Edward III* has not been made before, he says, is that it is too contentious. "Some Shakespeare scholars think the same, but they don't dare say so. Professors cannot be wrong."

"But both Professor Wells and Professor Gary Taylor, who co-edited *William Shakespeare: A Textual Companion*, have expressed regret they did not include *Edward III* in their books."

Dr Martin Wiggins, fellow of the Shakespeare Institute of the University of Birmingham, was cautious about Dr Sams' theory. "The idea that [Edward III] is wholly by Shakespeare hasn't generally found favour," he said. "Dr Sams' theory assumes that Shakespeare got better as time went on, and raises the question of when Shakespeare did write the sonnets and if he wrote them at a particular point in his career."

Shakespeare, or a play by any other pen?

Four extracts from *Edward III*

Countess: For where the golden ore doth buried lie
The ground undecked with nature's tapestry
Seems barren, sterile, fruitless, dry
And where the upper turf of earth doth boast
His pride, perfumes and part-coloured coat
Drove there and find this issue and their pride
To spring from purple and corruption's side.

Act I Scene 1
King Edward: O that world great nurse of battery
Why dost thou tip men's tongues with golden words
And praise their deeds with weight of heavy lead
That fair performance cannot follow promise?

Act II Scene 1
Warwick: Dark night seems darker by the lightning flash
Lilies that fester smell far worse than weeds
And every glory that inclines to sin
The shame is treble by the opposite.

Act II Scene 1
King Edward: The pillars of his house shall be their bones
The mould that covers him, their city ashes
His knell that groaning cries of dying men
And in the stead of tapers on his tomb
A hundred fifty towers shall burning blaze
While we bewail our valiant son's debasement.

Act V Scene 1

DAILY POEM

Frogs

By John Rodker

We talked of frogs that died in love.
You said, "Then cold's their heat."
I wondered, asking why love beat
Quick in them and then shrove
them over of that heat.
That cold (that heat) given by life
to last through an existence
burst suddenly, an intense
flash, that like a knife
fell, cutting the cord that held it.
That heat was like a liquid gas
that sears what felt it
and bursts, making nothing of what much was.

In green rushes, green they moulder,
smooth, stark,
tight arms round each other, dark
fingers on dark shoulder.

Where is your Tristram now?
Paola's had his day.
Their loves were frail, avow
them play!

John Rodker was born in Manchester in 1894 and moved with his family to the East End (his father was a corset-maker) when he was six. In 1919 he succeeded Ezra Pound as London editor of the *Little Review* and set up the Ovid Press, publishing verse and drawings by Joyce, Eliot, Pound, Valéry, Wyndham Lewis and Le Corbusier, as well as a German-language edition of Freud. Carcanet have recently published *Poems & Adolphe 1920*, edited by Andrew Crozier, which seeks to draw proper attention to Rodker's contributions, as publisher and poet, to the Modernist movement. He died in 1955.

EU tries to broker Mostar deal

If the crisis over the city council is not resolved, the elections in Bosnia will be pointless, writes Tony Barber

The European Union made a final effort yesterday to end a power-sharing dispute in the divided Bosnian city of Mostar, recognising that failure could threaten peace across the whole country.

"We have reduced the problems to just one," an EU spokesman said, as last-ditch talks continued with local Bosnian Croat and Muslim leaders. In Dublin, the EU's Irish presidency said in a statement: "The securing of agreement remains a matter of extreme urgency."

The EU, which has had a mandate to administer the city of Mostar since July 1994, had originally threatened to abandon its role by midnight last Saturday if the Bosnian Croats refused to join the newly elected city council, where Muslims have a slim majority.

However, when the deadline passed with no agreement in sight, the EU decided to continue the talks rather than walk out and risk making the partition of Mostar permanent.

At one level, the crisis has centred on the refusal of the Bosnian Croats to recognise the validity of the local elections last June, which resulted in a narrow victory for a Muslim-led coalition. At a deeper level, however, the crisis is about the attempt of the Bosnian Croats, supported by neighbouring Croatia, to maintain a Croat political entity in south-west Bosnia that might one day unite with Croatia itself.

Mostar has been divided into a Croat-controlled west and a Muslim-held east since the war between Muslims and Croats of 1993-94. The Croats regard the city as the capital of Herzegovina, the separatist mini-state which they promised last week to disengage in accordance with the Dayton peace agreement.

Carl Bildt, the international mediator from Sweden, said it was vital for the EU not to make any concessions to the Bosnian Croats which might "dilute the election results" in Mostar.



Shattered lives: An apartment block in Mostar, where the scars of the Croat-Muslim war of 1993 have left their mark

Photograph: AFP

Such concessions would severely damage next month's all-Bosnian elections, by opening the way for Serbs, Muslims and Croats alike to reject any results that went against them, he said.

"The main problem was that the Croats refused to recognise the election results because they were not satisfied with the outcome," Mr Bildt's deputy, Michael Steiner, said. He dismissed the Croat claim of irregularities in the vote: "This was a pure pretence. If it had not been this, it would have been something else."

Major Brett Boudreau, a spokesman for the Nato-led peace force in Bosnia, said the crisis in Mostar represented

"a major instance of non-compliance on the part of the Bosnian Croats. It is a slap in the face of all those who want democracy in Bosnia."

Bowing to intense pressure from the United States and the EU, the Croats offered last weekend to abide by the election results until the constitutional court of the Bosnia's Muslim-Croat federation ruled on their complaint that the election had been marred by fraud. However, as so often in Bosnian negotiations, this proposal contained a couple of catches.

The main one was that the constitutional court has not yet been formed, and the Croats made their acceptance conditional on there being no city council meetings between next Thursday and an eventual ruling by the court.

If the formation of the court, or its ruling, were to be indefinitely postponed, Mostar would still in practice be without a unified city council.

The Muslim mayor of the eastern part of Mostar, Safet Orucovic, insisted that the Croats should at least accept a deadline for the court's ruling. However, the two sides were unable to bridge this difference, causing the talks to break up early yesterday after seven hours.

The Mostar crisis has coincided with a rise in tensions between Muslims and Croats elsewhere in Bosnia.

Two weeks ago a mosque was set on fire in the predominantly Croat town of Prozor, and an explosion damaged a Catholic church in the Muslim-controlled town of Bugojno, in central Bosnia.



SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Kenya is to suspend rail, road and air links with Burundi as part of a package of economic sanctions agreed by African leaders at a summit in Tanzania last week, the Kenyan presidency said yesterday. The sanctions would also restrict movement of people between the two countries, which do not share a land border. Tanzania has already applied the sanctions, aimed at toppling Burundi's recently installed military junta. *Reuters - Nairobi*

Indonesia's pro-democracy leader refused to be questioned by police about a riot that erupted after security forces raided her party headquarters. Megawati Sukarnoputri, who says a summons naming her as a witness is not valid, instead sent lawyers to police headquarters, where they talked to investigators. Police said a new summons would be issued. Megawati, daughter of Indonesia's founding president, Sukarno, is fighting official efforts to remove her as chief of the opposition Indonesian Democratic Party. The current President, General Suharto, apparently is afraid that growing support for her, especially among admirers of her late father, could threaten his government. *AP - Jakarta*

Prosecutors demanded that the former military "strongman" Chun Doo-hwan be sentenced to death for presiding over one of the darkest eras in South Korean history. The prosecution sought life imprisonment for another military leader, Roh Tae-woo, who helped Chun seize power in a coup 17 years ago. *AP - Seoul*

An Egyptian court threw its weight behind Islamists by upholding a ruling that a happily married university professor must divorce his wife because he was found to have renounced Islam. A human rights group, saying it feared for the life of Arabic professor Nasr Abu Zaid, urged President Hosni Mubarak to overturn the "unjust" decision by Cairo's Court of Cassation. *Reuters - Cairo*

Sri Lankan troops killed at least 200 Tamil Tiger guerrillas as they advanced on the northern rebel-held town of Kilinochchi. The Tamil Tigers, in their account of the battle that has left nearly 200,000 people homeless, said its rebels had killed at least 100 troops and destroyed five army tanks. *Reuters - Colombo*

Four gunmen have kidnapped a lawyer who represented the outlawed fundamentalist political party, the Islamic Salvation Front. The unidentified gunmen grabbed Rachid Mestli and two members of his family near the eastern outskirts of the Algerian capital. One of the kidnap victims was a 5-year-old child. *AP - Algiers*

An imprisoned member of the Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party died after six years in jail, and exiled Burmese dissidents said they believed his death was a result of torture. Hla Than had been sent to hospital from prison with unspecified internal injuries, the dissidents said.

Meanwhile, Burma has banned all imports of Heineken and Carlsberg beers as retaliation against the brewers who withdrew investment in Burma. *Reuters - Bangkok*

A vow by two women never to be separated has made a 29-year-old factory worker, plans to marry Amphorn Chulayarnrattana, who has insisted he also marry her best friend Nooka Ramangthong, this week, local newspapers reported. Bigamy is illegal in Thailand but the trio said they would live as common-law partners. *Reuters - Bangkok*

Countdown to crisis in a divided city

The following is a summary of international efforts to resolve the crisis in Mostar since 1993, and a summary of the Dayton peace agreement for Bosnia. Here is a summary of recent events.

- 1991** - Pre-war census puts Mostar's population at 35 per cent Muslim, 34 per cent Croat, 19 per cent Serb, 10 per cent Yugoslav, 2 per cent other.
- April 1992** - War breaks out in Bosnia. Croats and Muslims defend Mostar against attacks by Serb-led Yugoslav army.
- July 1992** - Bosnian Croats, backed by Croatia, form separatist state of Herzeg-Bosnia with Mostar as capital.
- Spring 1993** - Muslim-Croat war breaks out. Croats expel Muslims from western Mostar and set up detention camps outside city.
- February 1994** - Muslim-Croat truce. Mostar is divided into Croat-controlled western sector and smaller, ruined Muslim-held east. Virtually no Serbs left.
- March 1994** - Muslim-Croat federation of Bosnia established under US auspices.
- July 1994** - European Union given mandate to administer Mostar and re-integrate Croat and Muslim sectors. First administration by German Hans Koschick.
- November 1995** - Dayton Agreement stipulates abolition of Herzeg-Bosnia and reunification of Mostar through elections to city council.

February 1996 - Koschick proposes dividing Mostar into six cantons, three Muslim and three Croat, with a large mixed administrative area in city centre. Croats react violently, storming EU headquarters in Mostar.

June 1996 - Elections give Muslim-led coalition narrow majority on city council. Croats reject results and boycott council, claiming fraud at polling stations abroad.

July 1996 - EU declares election valid, saying fraud was too small to affect results. Croats warned to join city council by 4 August or EU will leave Mostar.

31 July - US officials extract Bosnian Croat pledge to abolish Herzeg-Bosnia and set up common institutions with Muslims for governing federation.

2 August - President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia fails to assure President Bill Clinton that Bosnian Croats will join Mostar council.

3 August - At EU-sponsored talks, Bosnian Croats refuse to meet deadline for joining council.

4 August - Negotiations restart after expiry of deadline, but no progress. Carl Bildt, international High Representative for Bosnia, demands more pressure on Tudjman to make Bosnian Croats give in.

5 August - Last-ditch talks in Mostar as EU considers whether to end its mission in the city.

Mutual mistrust mires refugees in the misery of homelessness

ANDREW GUMBEL
Arzinja

In Croatia yesterday, a jubilant government was celebrating Homeland Thanksgiving Day to mark the first anniversary of the spectacular recapture of the Krajina from rebel Serbs.

Several hundred miles away, in a drab refugee camp in Serbia, there was little cause for celebration as a handful of refugees from last summer's campaign observed the dismal reality of the life they have been reduced to.

"The Croats say we can now return home, but I don't trust anything they say," says Miroslav Devic, a farmer from Kostanica, now sitting out the endless days in a disused electrical goods factory in Arzinja, 40 miles south-east of Belgrade. "If there was any kind of democracy in Croatia we wouldn't have been kicked out in the first place, and they wouldn't have burned what we left behind."

In grand strategic terms, the recapture of the Krajina helped precipitate the end of the fighting in the former Yugoslavia because it tipped the military balance away from the Serbs, who seized the area in 1991, and encouraged them to seek a settlement at the negotiating table.

But for the ordinary men and women whose lives have been overshadowed by five years of war and uncertainty in the Krajina, the offensive only wreaked further havoc in their lives. For them, the future looks almost as bleak as the immediate past.

The reciprocal cruelties of the war have made it impossible for Serb refugees like Miroslav Devic to contemplate going home: not only would he have to live under a Croatian government, but he would somehow have to live alongside Croatian neighbours who mistrust him as much as he mistrusts them.

The prospects are little better in Serbia, which is already groaning under the weight of up to 650,000 refugees from Bosnia and Croatia and can offer no housing because its economy has been ruined by the war and by United Nations sanctions. So he and his family are stuck in the dilapidated Gosa factory in Arzinja, their few possessions piled up behind their lumpy beds where once hair-driers came off a production line.

There is no running water, so the 80-strong community depends on water tanks which are delivered once a week. The roof leaks, and in winter the

heating system is barely adequate to stop them shivering through the night. The only work available is seasonal fruit-picking; local farmers have no resources to take on extra full-time help.

Serbs, together with international organisations like UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), set up 300 refugee camps (or "collective centres", as they are euphemistically known) in the wake of last year's Krajina offensive. Under the terms of the Dayton peace agreement, hundreds of thousands of the people displaced by the war should in theory be returning home.

But listening to the refugees' stories, one quickly appreciates that few will be returning in a hurry. One Serb in the camp, who gave his name as Miodrag, comes from Drvar in western Bosnia, once almost entirely a Serb town but now under Croat control. "There's nothing to go back for except for a few dogs and some old women who are beaten and mistreated by the Croats," he said.

His wife is a Muslim, which will make it almost impossible for them to settle either in the Serb-controlled part of Bosnia or in Serbia proper. "My only chance is to go abroad. I applied

for a US visa, but they turned me down. So what do I do now?"

It is not just refugees who are reluctant to return home. Political leaders in the former Yugoslavia are discouraging returnees in the interests of creating ethnically pure blocs, according to UN officials. "I'd say that, in Bosnia, the Serbs are the most recalcitrant, followed by the Croats, followed by the Muslims," said Marwan Elkhouly, a spokesman for the UNHCR in Belgrade.

The refugee commission has organised "assessment visits" for refugees contemplating a return home, and opened bus routes crossing ethnic boundaries. But many of these are blocked as convoys are jeered at and attacked with stones.

The UNHCR estimates that 100,000 people have returned home since the end of the war, but that a further 90,000 have become displaced - leaving a net return of just 10,000 out of a total 3 million refugees.

"How am I ever going to go back? Croatian refugees have been living in my flat for the past five years," said Andjia Glavas, an elderly woman. "I have been here for one year now, and I don't see any way I will be leaving soon."

Stay in touch

MERCURY MINICall

KEEPS YOU IN TOUCH WITHOUT THE RUNNING COSTS*

- FREE CONNECTION
- NO MONTHLY BILLS
- 100 LETTERS PER TEXT MESSAGE
- NATIONWIDE COVERAGE

WIDE RANGE OF TEXT AND NUMERIC PRODUCTS AVAILABLE IN A CHOICE OF COLOURS

For further information FreeCall 0500 505 505 anytime.

AVAILABLE FROM: ARGOS, CURRYS, DIXONS, JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP, TALKLAND, TANDY, THE LINK, PEOPLES PHONE SHOWROOMS, AND AUTHORISED DEALERS.

*Messages sent to the Text Express and Alpha Express are charged to the caller at 35p economy rate, at 35p at all other times. Calls to all other Minicall products are charged by the second at 35p a minute economy rate, 45p at all other times. Calls made from payphones, mobile phones and other networks are subject to network availability and prevailing rates of those networks. Uses standard battery lasting up to six weeks.

AVAILABLE FROM £59.99 - £99.99

FEATURED PRODUCTS TEXT EXPRESS, RRP £10.00

MERCURY

international



Gun-ho: A recently released photograph of Richard Jewell, main suspect in the Atlanta bombing, cradling a military rifle. Mr Jewell, initially hailed as hero, is being investigated by the FBI. Photograph: Black Star

US bill: EC considers retaliation over 'violation' of trading laws

Clinton raises stakes with Iran sanctions

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington
TONY BARBER and
MARIE DEROME

President Clinton yesterday set the stage for a new confrontation with America's allies and trading partners by signing into law a bill punishing foreign companies investing in Libya and Iran — the latter now Washington's prime suspect for the barracks bombing that killed 19 US servicemen in Saudi Arabia in June.

Minutes after the Oval Office ceremony, Mr Clinton went to George Washington University to deliver an address in which he labelled terrorism "the enemy of our generation", and promised proposals for enlarged extradition powers, and broader authority to prosecute, in the US, people accused of terrorism against Americans abroad.

Iran and Libya, he said, were the "most dangerous sponsors of terrorism" in the world.

The strictest complaints were almost identical to those which

greeted last month's measure imposing sanctions on third country companies doing business with Cuba. But in an election year, and with public nerves already on edge at the explosion of TWA's flight 800 and the bombing at Olympic Centennial Park in Atlanta, the impact of such protests will be minimal.

Iran said the bill would fail. "Clinton's decision lacks international backing and is doomed to failure," a foreign ministry spokesman said.

The latest law requires Mr Clinton to impose two of six possible sanctions against companies that invest more than \$40m (£26m) annually in oil or gas projects in Libya and Iran. These include denying export-import bank loans, barring financial institutions from dealing in US Government bonds, and a ban on federal procurement from companies involved. As with the anti-Castro sanctions, critics in Europe and North America say the sanctions violate international trading laws.

Yesterday's staged signing, witnessed by family members of the victims of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing and two former hostages held during the 1980 siege of the US embassy in Tehran, was part of a co-ordinated attempt to keep terrorism high on the campaign agenda, and were designed to draw attention from the future Republican candidate Bob Dole, and the economic plan he announced yesterday. Nor can Mr Clinton risk being portrayed as "soft on terrorism".

Only last week William Perry, the Defense Secretary, indicated that a possible Iranian involvement with the Saudi bomb was under scrutiny, while Time magazine reports that the CIA has "suspicions" that Iran might have had a hand in the explosion of the TWA jet on 17 July — although investigators have not even yet established the aircraft was sabotaged.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London said: "We cannot accept US pressure on its allies to impose sanctions under the threat of mandatory penalties." For European governments, it is a matter of principle that they should resist attempts in Washington to punish companies and commercial activities that lie outside US jurisdiction.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman, Yves Dourloux, said France was determined to ensure "that any damage does not go without retaliation". France could be particularly affected by the US decision as one of its largest companies, Total SA, signed a \$600m (£400m) deal last year to develop Iran's offshore Sirri oil fields. The company also has stakes in two oilfields in Libya.

Dole prays tax U-turn will impress voters

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

Desperate to spark his floundering, near-lifeless presidential bid, Bob Dole yesterday embraced the "voodoo economics" he lambasted in the past, by unveiling a \$548bn (£370bn) plan to cut income taxes by 15 per cent and thus lead the country into a new era of prosperity.

The economic strategy that will be at the heart of his campaign this autumn was launched at a speech in Chicago, and kicks off a political fortnight which could settle Mr Dole's chances of overcoming his 20-per-cent deficit in the polls and capturing the White House in November.

On Saturday he is scheduled to make the keenly anticipated announcement of his choice for Vice-President, only two days before the opening of the nominating convention in San Diego. At best this will be a symphony of soft words and sweet reason, orchestrated to appeal to the crucial middle ground of American politics.

At worst (and further wrangling last weekend over abortion in the Republican manifesto offered an ominous portent) it could turn into a brawl between moderates and conservatives, a repeat of the ugly 1992 goings-on in Houston that helped send then President George Bush to defeat.

First, the notoriously visionless Mr Dole must find something to stand for, and yesterday's economic plan aimed to fill that gap. In essence he has reached for the Republican panacea of tax cuts: not the flat tax promoted by publisher Steve Forbes in the primaries, but a 15-per-cent reduction in tax rates at every existing bracket, phased in over three years. In addition, he plans a \$500-per-child tax credit, costing \$75bn, and a halving of capital gains tax.

In doing so, Mr Dole, a long-standing hawk on deficit reduction, may strain his credibility to breaking point. Only a few years ago he was making vicious jokes about "supply-siders" ("the good news is that a bus full of them went over a cliff; the bad news is there were three empty seats"). Now

he is making their nostrum — that lower taxes boost economic activity, swell the federal tax take and actually reduce the deficit — his own.

According to the Dole plan, the Republican goal of a balanced budget by 2002 will not be affected, nor will popular entitlement programmes, such as Medicare and social security, beyond the party's existing proposals in Congress. But economists are sceptical and so are ordinary Americans.



Dole: Sudden convert to 'voodoo economics'

Nor does Mr Dole's gloomy diagnosis of the national economy ring entirely true. His measures, he says, will lift sustainable growth from 2.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent a year, creating millions of new jobs. In fact, the economy expanded by more than 4 per cent in the second quarter of 1996, unemployment and inflation are low, and the budget deficit this year is forecast at \$116bn, the lowest since the late 1970s. In proportional terms, at 1.6 per cent of GDP, it is the best of any major industrialised country.

Not surprisingly, the White House jumped on the Dole plan, "a gold medal flip-flop" was the caustic post-Olympic judgement of Leon Panetta, the White House chief of staff.

The propaganda wars mask a reversal of roles. Traditionally champions of the working man, the Democrats will fight the election as the party of fiscal rectitude, while the Republicans seek to exploit a widespread feeling that in spite of today's fine figures, jobs are less secure than ever.

Sainsbury's,
refreshes the offers
others find
hard to beat.



Save 60p

Save £1.30



PG Tips
Teabags 160s
£2.95
**BUY 1 GET
2ND HALF
PRICE**



Branston
Pickle 310g
65p
**BUY 1 GET
2ND HALF
PRICE**



Ragù
Pasta Sauce 265g
86p
**BUY 1 GET
2ND HALF
PRICE**



Sainsbury's
Penne Tricolori
Pasta 500g
72p 49p
SAVE 23p



Sainsbury's
Shortcake Biscuits
400g
67p 44p
THIRD OFF



Tango
6x330ml pack
£1.89
**BUY 1 GET
2ND HALF
PRICE**



Lener 2 litre
£1.65
**BUY 1 GET
2ND HALF
PRICE**



Mr Kipling
Frozen Dairy Cream
Slices 490g
£1.99 99p
SAVE £1



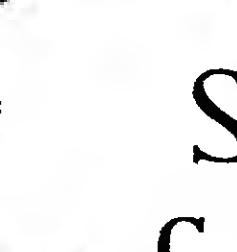
Huggies
Pull-Ups
£4.99 £3.99
SAVE £1



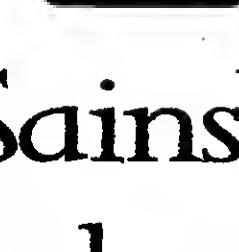
Sainsbury's
UHT Virtually Fat
Free Milk 1.5 litre
72p 56p
SAVE 16p



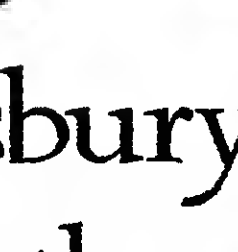
Kingsmill
Premium Bread
800g 63p
**BUY 1 GET
2ND HALF
PRICE**



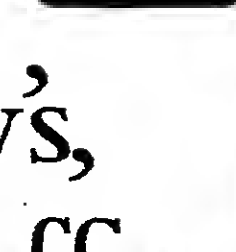
Sainsbury's
Jam Tarts
59p
**BUY 1 GET
2ND HALF
PRICE**



Sainsbury's
8 Lincolnshire
Sausages 454g
£1.59 99p
Save 60p



Heineken
12x440ml pack
£8.29 £6.99
Save £1.30



Allinson
Wholemeal Bread
800g 61p
**BUY 1 GET
2ND HALF
PRICE**



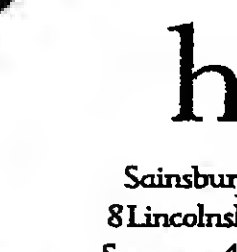
Sainsbury's
USA Long Grain
Rice 2kg
£1.89 £1.59
SAVE 30p



Coca-Cola
2 litre
£1.19
**BUY 3 GET
4TH FREE**



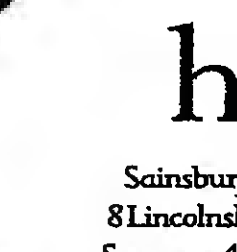
Sainsbury's
Chicken/Beef/Fish
Sausages 500g
£1.09 89p
SAVE 20p



Sainsbury's
Steak Cut
Oven Chips
1.81kg
£2.49 £1.49
SAVE £1



Pantene Shampoo/
Conditioner 200ml
£1.99
**BUY 2 GET
3RD FREE**



Sainsbury's
West Country
Farmhouse Cheddar
397g-511g
£6.59 £5.59 per kg
SAVE £1 per kg



Sainsbury's
6 Sultana Snacks
82p
**BUY 1 GET
2ND HALF
PRICE**



Ambrosia
Ready to Serve
Custard 425g
57p
**BUY 1 GET 2ND
HALF PRICE**



Sara Lee
Double Chocolate
Gateau 340g
£1.99 £1.19
SAVE 80p

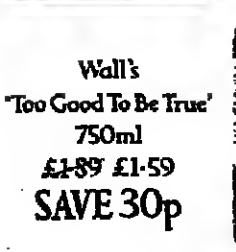


Ariel Futur Liquid
1.5 litre
£3.65
**BUY 1 GET
2ND HALF
PRICE**



SAINSBURY'S
Reward Card

Pick up your
Reward Card today.



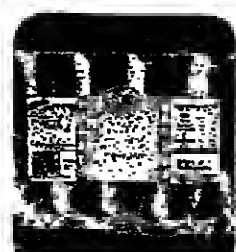
Wall's
Too Good To Be True
750ml
£1.89 £1.59
SAVE 30p



Sainsbury's
Lemonade 2 litre
59p
**BUY 2 GET
3RD FREE**



Sainsbury's
12 Finger Rolls
£1.47 76p
THIRD OFF



Sainsbury's. Where good food costs less.

OFFERS AVAILABLE UNTIL 17 AUGUST 1996. ALSO AVAILABLE AT SAINSBURY'S SAINSBURY'S. MERCHANDISE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. SOME LINES ARE AVAILABLE AT LARGER BRANCHES ONLY. THE LAW DOES NOT PERMIT THE SALE OF ALCOHOL TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 16.

HOUSE INSURANCE

SAVE UP TO 50% OR MORE
e.g. LONDON & HOME COUNTIES
£100,000 Buildings Sum Insured
Premium Only £154.00
LOWER Premiums in most Other Areas
Ring NOW to Save Money
0345 123111
All calls charged at local rate



Hill House Hammond
Cutting The Cost Of Your Insurance

Netanyahu demands time to keep the peace



ERIC SILVER
Jerusalem

On his first visit to Jordan as Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday argued that King Hussein should give him time to prove that his protestations of peace are more than a marketing exercise.

"This is a government that is committed to peace," Mr Netanyahu told a joint press conference. "Its ministers are committed to peace. And we shall act as one government, with one policy, for peace."

The statement was directed partly at his undisciplined colleagues, one of whom — ex-

general Rafael Eitan — suggested only the day before that the contentious Jewish community of Hebron should be increased tenfold. But the Prime Minister offered no concrete indication that he was ready to give as well as to take in pursuit of peace.

On the stalled dialogue with Damascus, Mr Netanyahu said: "We're prepared to engage in peace negotiations with Syria on all outstanding matters. Our purpose is to achieve a formal peace with Syria. We believe that if there is goodwill on the side of Syria we can resume negotiations, and we're prepared to do so in the immediate future."

He suggested that his recent

proposal to pull Israeli troops out of Southern Lebanon, in return for the disarming of the Hizbollah militia, could be a confidence-building measure.

"It could," he said, "be a very good starting point to build a relationship of trust, a relationship of stability, a relationship of confidence between Israel and Syria that will serve us well in the other outstanding issues that we need to negotiate about."

Yet Mr Netanyahu gave no hint that he had dropped his entrenched resistance to trading all or any of the Golan Heights, occupied since 1967, for an agreement. Syria's President Hafez Assad has always insist-

ed on land-for-peace as an essential condition.

The Israeli leader was equally circumspect on last week's unfreezing of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a decision that has provoked blood-curdling prophecies from the Palestinians and the Israeli left. "We want to see the natural growth of communities," he said, "Arab communities and Jewish communities."

But he added: "We did not stipulate what our policy would be in the future — when and if we shall build new settlements. When we say there should be free and natural growth, this doesn't mean that the govern-

ment has removed its own staying hand."

Decisions on settlements would be concentrated in the hands of the Defence Minister and Prime Minister. But critics still fear that the "natural growth" formula is merely the first stage — expansion by salami tactics.

On Jerusalem, too, which both Israelis and Palestinians claim as their capital, Mr Netanyahu was inflexible. Jerusalem, he said, would never be divided. He took his stand on the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians, which specified that there should be no change during the interim stage.

On this point, King Hussein put down a marker of disagreement. "This is a subject that has to be discussed later, as agreed in the final status negotiations," he reminded Mr Netanyahu. "Let's hope that when the time comes there'll be enough imagination, goodwill, and enough vision to make Jerusalem something very, very special, for hundreds of millions of people — and also the essence of peace between our two peoples."

Mr Netanyahu also announced that another 5,000 Palestinian day labourers would be allowed to enter Israel from the West Bank and Gaza. This brings the total to 40,000.



Hussein: Jerusalem will be the essence of peace

Warlord's son puts paid to Somalia's yearning for peace

Mogadishu — In a ward of the Key Saney hospital, in north Mogadishu, is a tiny child with a disproportionately long name. Abdulahi Abdi Ahmed is 17 months old, with wispy, black hair and large, brown eyes. He lies on his back, staring up at his mother who sits on the edge of the bed, fanning him to keep off the flies. His stomach is covered with dressing and surgical tape.

At the end of the bed a doctor holds up an X-ray picture to the light. The bullet, which lodged in Abdulahi's right side, is clearly visible on the black-and-white image.

"He was in his mother's arms when a stray round hit him," Dr Hassan Sabrie said. "We have removed the bullet and now he can take some food and liquids. But he is paralysed from the waist down. This child will never walk."

The death of the faction leader General Aideed has not eased the country's agony, writes David Orr

outside his house; and Moumin Gureh, a middle-aged former civil servant who lay wounded for five days before his family got him across the Green Line.

The patients in Key Saney receive the best treatment that is available in Mogadishu. Most of them will recover, more or less. Soon they will return home and pick up their lives, trading, doing housework, or being cared for, as children everywhere are cared for. They will be forgotten.

Not so General Aideed. Although his body was laid to rest last Friday, his name will be honoured by his clansmen and supporters for many years. It

held by Ali Mahdi, who believe there is now an opportunity to end the war which has devastated the country and left the capital in ruins.

"We hope for peace, now that General Aideed is dead," said David Shino, a young man who has lost one brother and seen four others wounded in the conflict.

"We have had too much war here, everyone has had people in their family killed. Perhaps the fighting will stop now."

Mr Shino sits at a roadside tea stall with a group of traders, former government workers and students. Around them are artillery-blasted buildings and the detritus of five years' war: mounds of rubble, wrecked cars and decaying piles of rubbish.

Despite regular outbreaks of fighting in southern Mogadishu, the Green Line and the northern part of the city have been quiet of late. But there is not much business, especially for young men. So, they hang around, discussing politics. The Somalis have invented a phrase for the members of such "talking shops": they call them "fadh-hi ku dirir", or sitting fighters.

Some of the men in these groups are undoubtedly militiamen, or former militiamen. They all swear loyalty to Ali Mahdi and say they will fight the Aideed faction if they have to. As they sit there, the sound of gunfire is carried on the wind across the Green Line. "Don't worry," they say, laughing. "It's only people trying out the guns at Babar market. There is no shooting here."

But the shooting in Mogadishu could start again for real. When General Aideed died last week, Ali Mahdi declared a ceasefire on behalf of his side. However, Hussein, the newly-proclaimed leader of the Aideed faction, has made no such conciliatory gestures. Indeed, he has vowed to eliminate all his enemies, both inside and outside the country. Now Ali Mahdi has said that he will have to reconsider his position.

The Aideed faction has been considerably weakened since the defection last year of the general's former financier, Osman Atto. But, despite the splintering of the clan alliances and the death of their general, the Aideed faction seems as intent on warmongering as ever.

A window of opportunity might have opened but it is closing fast. Amidst all the suffering of this hopeless conflict, Somalis are bracing themselves for yet more death and destruction.

Gun law: Children gather around a young militiaman patrolling the streets of the divided city of Mogadishu



Photograph: Corinne Dufka/Reuters

Germany seeks to extradite Priebke witness

IMRE KARACS
Bonn

The SS officer who claims to know the whereabouts of the missing Nazi loot and was the key witness in the botched trial of Erich Priebke is wanted by his fatherland. The German authorities confirmed yesterday that they were seeking the extradition from Italy of former SS Hauptsturmführer, Karl Hass, now aged 84, and intended to try him for the massacre of 335 civilians in Italy during the Second World War.

Unlike Priebke, who fled to Argentina after the war, Mr Hass had spent the last 50 years in Italy, not wanted by a soul. Assumed dead, he was discovered by the prosecution in May, staying at his daughter's house in Switzerland.

He was persuaded to return to Italy for the trial, and expected to nail Priebke with his testimony. But on the eve of his court appearance, Mr Hass appears to have changed his mind. He tried to climb down from the window of his first-floor hotel room, slipped and broke his pelvis.

The court had to assemble around Mr Hass's hospital bed to hear his account of the massacre in the Ardeatine Caves. Describing the killing of 335 civilians as "a moment of idiosyncrasy", he proceeded to tear the prosecution's case to shreds, insisting that Priebke had had no choice but follow orders. In the course of his testimony, Mr Hass did, however, contrive to implicate himself directly in the massacre.

His admission is enough to convict him in a German court. The Bonn Justice Ministry is seeking the extradition of both Priebke, who was found guilty but pronounced unpunishable by an Italian military court last week, and Mr Hass. In Priebke's case German prosecutors have

40 days to hand over his dossier to the Italians, but bringing him to justice is complicated by the circumstances of his extradition from Argentina. Mr Hass's chances of returning to his homeland seem brighter.

If he is handed over to Germany his trial would focus not only on the question of war guilt, but might reveal the secret of the Nazis' continued prosperity after the war. In interviews Mr Hass had hinted at an international conspiracy involving western governments and intelligence agencies to shield war

criminals from justice. He himself had been allowed to live in peace in Italy, he told the Rome newspaper *l'Espresso*.

He also said that some of the gold looted by the Nazis from occupied countries still laid buried beneath a fortress near Bolzano, while the remainder had vanished from its hiding place near Rome.



Priebke: Found guilty but was just following orders

By arguing that he and Priebke had a choice about carrying out the order to execute civilians, Mr Hass refuted the war criminals' notorious "Nuremberg defence". Had he stuck to this version in his testimony, Priebke would probably be serving a jail sentence today.

My accomplice in a great escape from the scene of the crime

Anyone who works for a few months as a journalist in Russia develops a habit. They can hardly type the word "police" without, almost by reflex, also writing "corrupt".

With good reason. Westerners in Moscow face demands for money from traffic cops who refer to the lollipop-shaped batons with which patrolmen wave down cars as "pazhaluista sticks" — "please" sticks. Police forces the world over have their had apples; in Russia they seem to come by the barrel-load.

Yet it is only fair to report an incident which proves there are exceptions, albeit 5,587 miles to the east of the capital.

It was in the Trans-Siberian railway that I was relieved of my wallet. It contained credit cards, almost all my cash, and my air ticket home. Wary after three ticket home. Wary after three days on the Trans-Siberian railway, I had made the mistake of leaving my jacket on a chair in a bar for a few moments.

Anywhere else, the matter could be resolved by calling your credit card companies and wiring some money overnight. Not here. Automated bank tellers, freephone numbers,

VLADIVOSTOK

telephone cards, reverse charge calls — all have yet to come to this litter-strewn backwater on the Sea of Japan. Cash is everything. I had \$8.

Some cities are worth being stranded in for a day or two, but Vladivostok — until six years ago a Soviet naval base closed to foreigners — is not among them. At this time of year, it is as clammy as a Russian bath-house.

Power cuts sometimes last all day, because the Kremlin is delaying energy payments.

I demanded that the police be called to the bar, after failing to persuade its security men to get involved. Their walkie-talkies and hully-boy swaggers were evidently intended to resolve larger issues. Two young policemen arrived, looking like mackerel entering a shark pool. Mystifyingly, they took in a waitress, and carried us all off to the decrepit police station.

In mafia-infested Vladivostok, where there are three or four murders a night, a stolen wallet is about as interesting as

a case of apple scrumping. The duty captain wore one of those beard-it-all-before faces; the reek of vodka hung in the air.

I was interviewed by a detective who asked one question: "Did the barmaid do it?" Answer: "I very much doubt it, she was nowhere near me." I knew the cops wanted to shove the crime as soon as possible; what I wanted was a way home.

It was at this point that I met Major Sergei Zhukovsky. Nothing about this young detective's appearance (lanky jeans and sneakers, mouth full of gold teeth), his office (cubby-hole with a photo of his Cossack grandfather and a safe containing his coffee supply) or his views (Isarist) inspired hope.

What chance was there of getting a flight to Moscow without a ticket, I asked, as he poured us a large vodka from a tin can. Very little, he replied.

I do not know whether it was pity, kindness, the vodka or a desire to rid himself of a nuisance, but after offering me a bed at

his place for a few days, the major and a female captain took me to the airport.

Here the major padded wolfishly around until he found the right person. "The airlines don't have to take any notice of the city police," he said, flourishing his badge in yet another face. "I'd say your chances are 50-50."

Together, the two braved the permafrost frowns of airline officials. There is no Western equivalent of the distrust, doubt and unco-operativeness that can occupy the space between the hairline and the cheekbones of a Russian bureaucrat.

We ended up pleading my case in the airport director's office, as if before a judge in chambers. After studying the paperwork, half-moon glasses perched on his nose, he relented, and jotted out a note. An hour later I was flying west.

The police in Vladivostok, always poorly paid, haven't seen any wages for several months. Not once did either officer ask for money or gifts, or anything other than a warm farewell handshake. Russia has some good cops you just have to know how to find them.

Phil Reeves

SWIFTCALL

call **OZ** for only **20p** per min

CALL **0800 279 0800**

THIS SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO YOU TODAY

FANTASTIC PRICES

20p per min	40p per min	60p per min
Australia Canada Ireland Germany	Hong Kong Singapore Japan Taiwan	South Africa India Brazil Israel

★★★★ FREEPHONE access to our exchange
★★★★ Pre-payment ensures no bill worries
★★ Can be used from any telephone
★ No fuss-quick and easy connection

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD READY
OPERATORS ARE STANDING BY 24HRS A DAY
7 DAYS A WEEK READY TO TAKE YOUR CALL

10p per min

The book that impressed the White House, the Pulitzer Prize judges and the science writers in Britain...

THE COMING PLAGUE

NEWLY EMERGING DISEASES IN A WORLD OUT OF BALANCE

Laurie Garrett

'A definitive work of reference but a rattling good read at the same time'

Tom Wilkie, *The Independent*

Now a Penguin paperback £12.50

obituaries/gazette

Geoff Hamilton

Although garden experts inhabit a less venal corner of the media world than many other specialists, the stars who command regular television spots are greatly envied by the rest of the profession. Yet nobody begrudged Geoff Hamilton his success as presenter of BBC2's *Gardeners' World* because he was so patently pre-eminent in the role he had filled since 1979. Easily the most popular of modern television gardeners, his death, eight days before his 60th birthday, leaves a void in the lives of 3 million viewers who tune in to the programme on BBC2 every Friday evening.

His passion for gardening and his impressive depth of knowledge were conveyed in a relaxed and affable manner that inspired confidence in experts and novices alike. When he had his first heart attack last year, thousands of viewers sent him flowers and get-well greetings. Over the years, many presenters tried to copy his style but never achieved the right balance. It is hard to be matter without seeming to patronise; to celebrate floral beauty without being precious; to play the countryman without tipping into the character of the country humpkin, as some of his predecessors and contemporaries had done.

In fact, he was not a countryman at all, being proudly of his origins in Stepney, east London, where he was born one of twins. When he was two, the family moved to rural Hertfordshire, where he soon developed an interest in gardening, taking part-time work in a local nursery while still at school.

After graduating from agricultural college he became a nurseryman and landscape gardener, and began writing a column for *Garden News* in 1970. Five years later he took up journalism full-time and became editor of *Practical Gardening*.

His colleagues in the media liked him because it was impossible not to be: he was invariably friendly, helpful and, on screen, utterly professional. In 1991, when the BBC put *Gardeners' World* out to an independent producer, there was never a doubt that Hamilton would stay as its main presenter. Tony Lavery, who managed the show and who is now its executive producer, said: "Geoff had a genuine love of gardening. It came out of every pore, and he was able to communicate it effectively because he was an ordinary bloke. He wasn't pretentious. He had a no-nonsense approach and an authority that came through his knowledge. You saw it and you believed it."

"New people on the programme were amazed when they saw him in front of the camera. It all came so naturally to him. If something hadn't worked he could tell straight away and he would do it again, getting it exactly right. He also had a marvellous sense of humour."

Last Friday, two days before he died, Hamilton was busy filming segments for this week's edition of *Gardeners' World*. He had simultaneously been working on a new series called *Hidden Gardens*, due to be screened next January. It was to be a follow-up to last winter's highly successful *Cottage Gardens*; his book accompanying that series was on the best-seller list for months.

On this week's *Gardeners' World* he had been due to guide viewers on a tour of his large garden at Barnsdale in Rutland, partly financed by the BBC. It was also his home, where he lived with his second wife Linda. Although the public are seldom allowed into Barnsdale it is one of the most famous gardens in the country because Hamilton's demonstrations of gardening techniques were filmed there. It is made up of several distinct garden areas, many constructed in front of the cameras for the benefit of viewers.

He seemed less comfortable when presenting the programme from other people's gardens and being forced to endorse over aspects that he may not necessarily have liked. He was happiest on his own patch explaining practicalities, whether the spade or hoe or getting his hands and knees dirty. With such a wide audience it was inevitable that his ideas should influence horticultural fashion; for instance, his habit of mixing vegetables and flowers in the same border is increasingly imitated.

Gardening is a big-money leisure industry but Hamilton was not a reliable friend of business interests. Knowing that many of his viewers were pensioners, with little money



Getting his hands and knees dirty: Hamilton in May this year

Photograph: Keith Dobney

to spare, he directed much of his advice towards saving costs. Why use purpose-made flower pots when you can recycle yoghurt containers? Or buy an expensive cloche when you can make one yourself for a few pence? His penchant for low-cost improvisation, allied to his perpetual air of boyish innocence, sometimes made the programme feel like a grown-up version of *Blue Peter*.

His millions of fans did not include the makers of fertilisers and pesticides. He was an organic gardener, eschewing chemicals and passionately opposing the use of peat in potting composts because extracting it from the earth can

endanger natural habitats. Although never cranky or obsessive about ecology he was one of the first New Age gardeners, politically correct before the phrase became fashionable. As such he was in sharp contrast to Percy Thrower, the first presenter of *Gardeners' World*, summarily fired from the programme in 1975 for his comments for garden chemicals.

A widely known gardening expert has numerous calls on his time: not just the on-screen work, but newspaper and magazine articles, books and endless personal appearances. Some of Hamilton's friends think it was his reluctance to turn down such engagements, as

well as having to find the time to do his own gardening, that contributed to last year's heart attack.

He was off the air for three months while he recuperated, and on his doctor's orders lost weight and took more exercise, including cycling. The fatal attack occurred while he was on a charity bike ride at the weekend, doing his bit for a good cause while trying to keep fit.

Michael Leapman

Geoff Hamilton, journalist, broadcaster and gardener, born London 12 August 1936; twice married (three sons); died near Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan 4 August 1996.

Professor Glanville Jones



Jones: medieval Welsh history

Glanville Jones spent the whole of his academic career at Leeds University, where he was first appointed as an Assistant Lecturer in 1949. An accomplished and dedicated teacher, with a wide range of interests, he made a distinguished contribution to the development of his historical geography at his university and much further afield. His scholarship was recognised by his appointment as Professor of Historical Geography in 1974.

Throughout these years of unremitting activity his research work was concentrated mainly, though not exclusively, on his native Wales. He was born at Felindre, in the parish of Llanfyllbach, Glamorgan, where his forebears had lived for generations. After war service, commissioned in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, he completed his degree in Geography at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. The school had a strong tradition in historical geography, and Jones was drawn to the study of medieval rural settlement. His choice was greatly influenced, too, by the inspiring presence of T. Jones Pierce, Professor of Medieval Welsh History, who supervised his postgraduate study of the defensive measures adopted by the 13th-century princes of Gwynedd in their conflicts with the English crown.

Traditional historical interpretations had portrayed medieval Welsh society as a largely free society given to what remained, even in the period of the medieval princes, a semi-nomadic pastoral economy. Glanville Jones, first broaching his ideas in a seminal paper on Anglesey in 1955, argued that Welsh society had contained, from a very early period, a much more substantial bond (unfree) population than had hitherto been imagined. He later developed his conception of a "multiple estate" which consisted of a network of demesne lands whose agrarian and pastoral resources were systematically exploited for the sustenance of the royal dynasties.

In recent months he was greatly excited by the archaeological surveys which, at long last, are beginning to reveal traces of the elusive princely courts, such as that uncovered at Rhosyr in Anglesey, which had been the focus of the economic organisation that he had done so much to illuminate.

Apart from the bond settlements, he was convinced that free kindreds, too, had long been engaged in stable agrarian activity, and by his meticulous study of the documentary sources, patient work upon the law texts, and his intimate knowledge of landscape, he was able to elucidate, much more clearly than ever before, the field systems and settlement patterns which emerged from Welsh methods of land exploitation and inheritance. His work initiated a fundamental reconsideration of the respective rolls of tillage and stock-raising in a medieval economy.

Glanville Jones's work on early and medieval Wales obviously had implications, which he himself explored, not only for border areas that had been subject to Anglo-Saxon settlement, but for wide areas of central England and especially its northern regions. Leeds was itself at the centre of a land with a distinctive British inheritance, and important associations with early Welsh poetry. His contributions to the debate on cultural continuities remain highly invigorating papers. Well versed in the documentary sources, the legal literature and the poetry – for he had a complete fluency in the Welsh language – he brought a remarkable armoury to bear upon the study of the landscapes he knew so well and loved so deeply.

Jones was a scholar whose unstinting loyalty and dedication placed him under immense physical strain. At Leeds he bore his full share in administrative responsibility, and he is particularly remembered for his greatly caring chairmanship, during the stressful Eighties, of the committee responsible for the colleges under the aegis of

the university. He maintained, too, a constant allegiance to the University of Wales. He was an assiduous external examiner for many years, and served on innumerable appointing committees.

Loyalty was matched by extraordinary courage as he withstood deteriorating health with exemplary resolve. He retired from his Chair in 1989, finding new energy to complete a sequence of studies on which he had set his mind. An extended version of a paper he delivered, much against the medical odds, at the International Congress of Celtic Studies at Edinburgh in 1995, which is still to appear, is testimony to his great fortitude. That he was able to do so owed much to the joy and fulfilment which he found in his family. A devoted and generous husband and father, he cherished the love and support of his wife, Pam, and the strong and affectionate bond with his two able children in whose professional success he took great pride.

J. B. Smith

Glanville Rees Jeffreys Jones, historical geographer, born Felindre, Glamorgan 12 December 1925; Reader in Historical Geography, Leeds University 1969-74; Professor of Historical Geography 1974-89; married 1949 Margaret Stevens (marriage dissolved 1958); 1959 Pamela Vynish (one son, one daughter); died Leeds 23 July 1996.

Neville Wadia

Neville Wadia was the last of India's aristocratic taipans, who expanded his family textile concern into one of India's largest and donated lavishly for the welfare of the Parsee community to which he belonged.

For 25 years he headed Bombay Dyeing, still a byword for quality across India, but he was a part of the company for 44 years, joining it – even though his father owned it – as a shopfloor assistant. Wadia also gave a new impetus to his family's philanthropic tradition by building hospitals, colleges and bungalows, or homes, for Parsees in the western port city of Bombay, where a majority of this dwindling community lives.

Though born a Christian – his father had renounced the Zoroastrian faith of the Parsees and converted to Christianity – Wadia became a Parsee a few years ago amidst much controversy. The orthodox Parsee clergy, tasked with preserving racial purity, objected to his conversion, strictly forbidden under Zoroastrianism, while the relatively liberal priests justified it on grounds of heart. Wadia was a true believer.

The Parsees are a small but high-profile community who migrated to western India from a small town called Par in Persia around the eighth century, to escape religious persecution. The light-skinned, handsome settlers were erudite, clever and natural businessmen and over the centuries established successful trading and manufacturing businesses in port cities like Bombay and Karachi (now in Pakistan).

Neville Wadia's father, Sir Ness Wadia, was one such entrepreneur, responsible for

turning Bombay into one of the world's largest cotton trading centres in the late 19th century. The sudden rise in cotton prices which followed the drop in supplies from America during the civil war led to Bombay's astute Parsee merchants stepping in and making up the shortfall by exporting cotton from the fertile Deccan plateau in the south.

Soon, Bombay became a boom town and sensing its potential the British government, aided largely by the forward-looking Parsee community, developed this disease-ridden, swampy fishing village into one of India's major textile centres.

Neville Wadia, however, cut his teeth in the textile business the hard way. Brought up in opulence in England where he was born and educated, he was unceremoniously flung into work at Bombay Dyeing by his father in the early Thirties, starting at the most junior level in each department and slowly working his way to the top. He was paid no salary and given only a meagre allowance befitting a lowly employee.

This training proved invaluable to Wadia, who succeeded his father as chairman of Bombay Dyeing in 1952 and turned it into one of India's most successful and quality-conscious textile concerns. In 1971, however, the eccentric Wadia startled Bombay's conservative business circles by announcing his decision to sell up and settle abroad.

But Nussli, his son, then 26 years old, had his own ambitions of owning and running the company and devised a strategy to stop his father. With help from his mother and sister and

influential family friends he began by garnering 11 per cent of the company shares and went on to persuade the employees to pool their savings and buy shares, thereby preventing the sale. The manoeuvrings worked and Wadia, forced to abandon his disposal plans, retired a few years later to be succeeded as chairman by his son.

Neville Wadia was born in Liverpool in 1911, and was educated at Malvern College and Trinity College, Cambridge. Soon after graduating he married Dina, daughter of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, and joined his father's textile business in 1933, supervising the loading of cotton bales on to trucks.

He became company chairman in 1952, retiring 25 years later. During this period cotton exports from India were growing and to help them expand he founded the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, which he headed for 12 years. Wadia also contributed to building new wings and upgrading several hospitals in Bombay founded by his family, and established a commerce college in Pune, 120 miles south of Bombay, along with a host of charitable trusts for Parsees.

Quietly spoken and full of Victorian charm, Wadia loved nothing better than walking round the various hospitals and Parsee homes associated with his family.

Kuldip Singh

Neville Ness Wadia, industrialist and philanthropist, born Liverpool 22 August 1911; married Dina Jinnah (one son, one daughter); died Bombay 31 July 1996.

John Agar

John Agar was an electrochemist who spent his academic career at Cambridge. His association with electrochemistry and with Sidney Sussex College lasted for the whole of his life.

Electrochemistry is that branch of physical chemistry which deals with the solutions of salts and also includes conducting solids and liquids (such as fused salts, the basis of many "fuel cells").

He was born in 1914, and was educated at Bradford College in Berkshire. In 1932 he went up to Sidney Sussex with an Open Scholarship and read Natural Science, obtaining First Class Honours in both parts of the Tripos. He was elected to a College Research Studentship in 1935, and began research with the eminent chemist F.F. Bowden.

He completed his PhD in 1938, and that year saw the publication of a paper in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* on the kinetics of electrode reactions, including reactions in molten caustic soda. Reference has continued to be made to this

for more than 50 years. His co-author Bowden was ill at the time, and Agar's contribution to this paper was a major achievement. He had by then moved to U.R. Evans's Corrosion Laboratory, where another colleague was T.P. ("Sam") Hoar. The advent of the Second World War saw Agar involved with ship corrosion problems, including two years with the Admiralty Metallurgical Laboratory.

In 1945 he returned to the Department of Physical Chemistry at Cambridge as an ICI Fellow, becoming successively Demonstrator in 1947, Lecturer in 1948 and Reader in 1965. He retired in 1981, but remained active in the department and college for some years thereafter. He was Head of the Department of Physical Chemistry for two short periods, a post which he was probably glad to give up, as administration was not really to his taste. In college he held sundry posts including that of Vice-Master.

Agar was an academic and a scholar when those words did not carry pejorative undertones.

His subject of electrochemistry can involve complicated mathematics. Perhaps that is why an irritated F.C. Tompkins, for years the Secretary of the Faraday Society, proclaimed the subject as "unfit for study". (He went on to say the same applied to chemical engineering, thus am I doubly disadvantaged.) His published works are few by modern custom, but by standards of quality they are very high. His reputation was truly international and he was often sought as an author to give an authoritative review; his 1963 paper in *Advances in Electrochemistry* is an example. His works are still being referred to long after his retirement.

In 1952 he became Agar's research student. I cannot say that I chose him as a supervisor because of his charismatic teaching in Part 2. John Agar sometimes found it hard to perceive the difficulties which students could have in understanding what seemed simple to him. He was the gentlest of men, but carried an aura of scholarship which, a subsequent colleague of mine, now a Reader

himself, described as "frightening". Both of us found him anything but frightening if you talked to him. He was incredibly knowledgeable about a wide range of physical science (his wartime work had had a strong practical orientation). His office was lined with notebooks dealing with all sorts of topics which had caught his attention. He lent them to me from time to time, and it was a struggle to keep pace with both the science and the handwriting. He was a most unassuming man who always seemed to wear the same tweed jacket. He had the least inflammable pipe I have ever known – it consumed more matches than tobacco, and his knocking out on the central heating pipe in his office told everyone else that he was in. He drove a small open-top car of similar vintage to his pipe and jacket, and was the least materialistic of men. He could be very funny. In a kind way, about the modern trends in academia, which were certainly not to his liking. In 1952 he married Delia



Agar: "frightening" scholarship

Simpson, a Fellow of Newnham, who also lectured, in spectroscopy, in the Physical Chemistry Department. They had no children. On my return visits to Cambridge in recent years, Delia's care of John was clear, not least in his long final illness.

Robin Turner

John Newton Agar, electrochemist, born 11 August 1914; Fellow, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge 1950-81 (Emeritus); Demonstrator in Physical Chemistry, Cambridge University 1947-48; Lecturer 1948-65; Reader 1965-81; married 1952 Delia Simpson; died Cambridge 11 July 1996.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

CLAXTON: On 31 July 1996, at the Westwood Hospital, Beverley, to Kate (née Cooke) and Richard, a son, Oliver Matthew.

DEATHS

BUTLER-COLE: Mary Rosa (née Denys), much-loved wife of Michael Butler-Cole, mother of Christopher and Rosemary, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at St Augustine's, West Monkton, at 2.30pm on Thursday 8 August. No flowers but donations if desired to her memory to the NSPCC.

EDWARDS: Anthony Paul John, on 23 July 1996, suddenly but peacefully at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, aged 73 years. The funeral has taken place and, by request, there will be no memorial service or requiem. Enquiries to T. Peacock & Son, 01258 451157.

McGUINNESS: On 4 August, at home, in Portmarna, Mary, beloved wife of the late John and mother of Ursula, Terry and Miriam, leaving a son of the O'Donnovan and Cotter families, sadly missed by all the family. RIP.

Birthdays

The Countess of Althorpe, former chairman, the Development Commission, 87; Sir Chris Bonington, mountaineer, 62; Mr Richard Buckle, exhibition designer, 90; Sir Michael Connell, High Court judge, 57; Mr Ronald Davies MP, 50; Mr Michael Doolley, film producer, 64; Col James Ellis Evans, former Lord-Lieutenant of Chwyd, 86; Mr John Evans, Chief Constable, Devon and Cornwall, 53; Mr Frank Finlay, actor, 70; Sir Marshall Sir Geoffrey Ford, 79; Dame Monica Golding, former Colonel Commandant, OARANC, 94; Mr Andrew Green, ambassador to Saudi Arabia, 55; Sir Howard Hodgkin, painter, 64; Sir Freddie Laker, chairman and managing director, Laker Airways (Babamas), 74; Mr James Lees-Milne, architectural historian, 88; Miss Moira Lister, actress, 79; Sir Donald McCullum, chairman, Laser Ecosse, 74; The Rev Dr William McCrea MP, 48; Alt Vice-Marshal Thomas MacDonald, 87; Sir David Mabel MP, 58; Mr Donn Minto, former prime minister of Malta, 80; Mr Robert Mitchell, actor, 79; Mr David O'Brien, racehorse trainer, 48; Sir Duncan Oppenheim, former president, British-American Tobacco, 92; Judge Valerie Pearlan, circuit judge, 60; Mr John Reid, jockey, 41; Lord Swaythling, chairman, Roth-

mans International, 68; Miss Barbara Windsor, actress, 59; Mr Charles Wood, television and film writer, 64.

Anniversaries

Births: Matthew Parker ("Nosey Parker"), Archbishop of Canterbury, 1504; Nicolas de Malebranch, philosopher, 1638; François de Salgar de la Motte Fenelon, playwright, priest and author, 1651; William Hyde Wollaston, chemist and physicist, 1766; John O'Connell, Irish leader and lawyer, 1775; Alfred, first Baron Tennyson, poet, 1809; Rolf Boldrewood (Thomas Alexander Browne), novelist, 1826; Paul-Louis Charles-Marie Claudet, poet, 1868; Sir Alexander Fleming, bacteriologist, who discovered penicillin, 1881; John Middleton Murry, author and editor, 1889; William Joseph Slim, first Viscount Slim, field marshal, 1891. Deaths: Stephen V. King of Hungary, 1272; Anne Hathaway, wife of William Shakespeare, 1623; Ben Jonson, playwright, 1637; Diego Rodriguez de Silva y Velazquez, painter, 1660; John George Halgh, "acid bath" murderer, executed 1849. On this day the Moors were defeated by the Spanish at the Battle of Simancas, 939; the Holy Roman Empire ended after the crown was renounced by Francis II, who became Francis I, Emperor of Austria, 1806.

Bolivia declared its independence from Peru, 1825; the Savoy Hotel, London, was opened, 1889; in the United States, the electric chair was used for the first time to execute a murderer (William Kemmler) in New York, 1890; the Corinth Canal, Greece, was opened, 1893; Gertrude Ederle, swimmer, became the first woman to swim the English Channel, 1926; *Don Juan*, the first feature-length sound film, was publicly shown in the United States, 1926; the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, 1945; Jamaica became independent, 1962. Today is the Feast of the Transfiguration and the Feast Day of St Hormisdas, pope and Saints Justus and Pastor.

Church appointments

Canon Gordon Reid, Vicar-General of the diocese in Europe; to be also Archdeacon in Europe, same diocese. Canon Nick Bary, Vicar of St Peter-in-Thames and Rural Dean of Thame, diocese of Canterbury, to be Dean of Gloucester. Canon Dr David Atkinson, Residential Canon, Chancellor and Missioner of Southwark cathedral, to be Archdeacon of Lewisham, diocese of Southwark. The Rev Peter Forster, Vicar of Beverley Minster, diocese of York, to be Bishop of Chester. Canon Gordon Ogilvie, Team Rector, St Paul's, Harlow New Town, and an Honorary Canon of Chelmsford Cathedral, diocese of Chelmsford, to be Archdeacon of Nottingham, diocese of Southwell. The Rev John Ashe, Vicar, Godsholme (Sussex), to be Priest-in-charge, Bishop of Chester. The Rev Margaret Barclay, NSM, St Thomas, Boston, Suffolk, Quaker, to be Priest-in-charge, St Mary, Swinstead (Lincoln). The Rev Sam Blackett, Chaplain to HM Prison Folsom (Durham), to be Chaplain, HM Young Offenders Institution, Derriford (Ripon). The Rev Andrew Body, Team Rector, Redburn (Salisbury), to be Vicar, St Lawrence, Chobham (Guildford). The Rev Maria Davies, Assistant Curate, Walmer (Canterbury), to be Priest-in-charge, Somerton and Grinstead with Consholme (Lincoln). The Rev Peter Knapp, Priest-in-charge, Blackheath, the Ascension (Southwark), to be Priest-in-charge, St Mary Magdalene, Holford (Gloucester). The Rev John Martin, Assistant Curate, parish of Kenish Treen, to be Vicar, St Paul's, Harringay (London). The Rev Peter Nicholson, Team Vicar, Great Baddow Team Ministry, in the Vicar, Westcott-on-Sea, St Michael and All Angels (Chelmsford). The Rev Bryan Owen, Warden, Scottish Centre House, Dundee, Scotland, to be Vicar, St John, Colindale (Guildford).

The Rev Peter Forster, Vicar of Beverley Minster, diocese of York, to be Bishop of Chester. Canon Gordon Ogilvie, Team Rector, St Paul's, Harlow New Town, and an Honorary Canon of Chelmsford Cathedral, diocese of Chelmsford, to be Archdeacon of Nottingham, diocese of Southwell.

The Rev John Ashe, Vicar, Godsholme (Sussex), to be Priest-in-charge, Bishop of Chester. The Rev Margaret Barclay, NSM, St Thomas, Boston, Suffolk, Quaker, to be Priest-in-charge, St Mary, Swinstead (Lincoln). The Rev Sam Blackett, Chaplain to HM Prison Folsom (Durham), to be Chaplain, HM Young Offenders Institution, Derriford (Ripon).

The Rev Andrew Body, Team Rector, Redburn (Salisbury), to be Vicar, St Lawrence, Chobham (Guildford). The Rev Maria Davies, Assistant Curate, Walmer (Canterbury), to be Priest-in-charge, Somerton and Grinstead with Consholme (Lincoln). The Rev Peter Knapp, Priest-in-charge, Blackheath, the Ascension (Southwark), to be Priest-in-charge, St Mary Magdalene, Holford (Gloucester). The Rev John Martin, Assistant Curate, parish of Kenish Treen, to be Vicar, St Paul's, Harringay (London). The Rev Peter Nicholson, Team Vicar, Great Baddow Team Ministry, in the Vicar, Westcott-on-Sea, St Michael and All Angels (Chelmsford). The Rev Bryan Owen, Warden, Scottish Centre House, Dundee, Scotland, to be Vicar, St John, Colindale (Guildford).

The Rev Elizabeth Hutchinson, Assistant Curate, St Peter and Paul, Aston, to be Assistant Curate, St Giles, Rowley Regis (Birmingham). Canon Peter Infield, to be Priest of St John's and St Nicholas Hospitals (Canterbury). The Rev Julian Hubbard, Vicar, The Bourne, Farnham, to be also Rural Dean of Farnham (Oxford).

The Rev Robert Hurley, Curate, Egg Buckland (Sussex), to be Canon of St John's, Canterbury (Southwark). The Rev David Jasper, now Curate (NSM), Reading St Matthew (Oxford). The Rev Alison Joyce, Tutor, West Midlands Training Centre, Queen's College, Birmingham, to be Assistant Curate (NSM), St Anne, Moseley (Birmingham).

The Rev Nelson Kappa, Programmes Co-ordinator of the Black Community Forum (UK), Sheffield, to be Vicar, St Paul, Northwold Avenue, Sheffield (Sheffield). The Rev Peter Knapp, Priest-in-charge, Blackheath, the Ascension (Southwark), to be Priest-in-charge, St Mary Magdalene, Holford (Gloucester). The Rev John Martin, Assistant Curate, parish of Kenish Treen, to be Vicar, St Paul's, Harringay (London). The Rev Peter Nicholson, Team Vicar, Great Baddow Team Ministry, in the Vicar, Westcott-on-Sea, St Michael and All Angels (Chelmsford). The Rev Bryan Owen, Warden, Scottish Centre House, Dundee, Scotland, to be Vicar, St John, Colindale (Guildford).

The Rev John Peak, NSM, Ventnor parishes, Isle of Wight (Portsmouth), to be Chaplain, Barnwood College (Oxford). The Rev David Rumsden, previously Vicar, St Stephen, Castle Hill (London), to be Director of Pastoral and Evangelical Studies at Trinity College (Bristol).

The Rev Jackie Seale, formerly Assistant Curate, St Stephen, Castle Hill (London), to be part-time Lecturer at Trinity College, Bristol (Bristol). The Rev Robert Silson, Vicar, Biggleswade, to be also Rural Dean of Biggleswade (St Albans).

The Rev John Twidwell, Vicar, St Luke, Gosport (Gosport), to be Area Missioner, Edmonton Area (London). The Rev John Walker, Team Vicar, Watling Valley Team Ministry (LEP), to be Team Rector, of that Team Ministry (Oxford). The Rev Captain Joel Womersley, CA, Assistant General Secretary, Church Army (Africa), to be Assistant Curate, St Mary, Bramall Lane, Sheffield (Sheffield). The Rev David Wolf, formerly Assistant Curate, St John the Baptist, Lough Heath, to be Assistant Curate, Warren Park, St Clare and Leigh Park, St Francis, held in plurality (Portsmouth). The Rev Dr David Wenham, Tutor, Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, to be also Associate Priest, Sheffield (Sheffield). The Rev Philip West, Vicar, St Margaret, Sheffield, to be also Rural Dean of Hildon (Sheffield). The Rev Robert White, Vicar, St Clare, Warren Park and Priest-in-charge, St Francis, Leigh Park, to be the incumbent, Warren Park, St Clare and Leigh Park, St Francis, held in plurality (Portsmouth). Prebendary John Widdow, Vicar, Tarnworth, to be Vicar, Walsall Wood (Lichfield). The Rev Mark Wigglesworth, Assistant Curate, Gosport, to be Priest-in-charge, Ashdon, Domesday (Sheffield).

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, Memorials) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 4DL. Telephone: 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2056, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, notices, Particulars of marriages, Marriages) must be submitted by writing (or fax) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra, and they should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Fair Game (I): Rubens, *An Autumn Landscape with a View of Het Steen in the Early Morning*", 1pm. British Museum: Frank Minney, "Trove for Decorative and Practical Purposes Throughout the Ages", 1.15pm.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 1pm; in Battalion Irish Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

Welfare needs more than curtain-twitching

The net curtains of the nation are twitching. Those had boys on benefit who speed half the week cleaning windows should take a second look at the faces staring out at them. Peter Lilley is encouraging us to shop our neighbours who are fraudulently claiming benefit from the state. If local pilot schemes are anything to go by, the public response should be immense.

This latest "Beat a Cheat" campaign is the tip of the iceberg. A long-since growing hostility towards fraudsters, there is a widespread anxiety about genuine benefit recipients too. As the benefit lists get longer, the taxpayer's bill gets higher, and voters, politicians and policy-makers are starting to wonder: is it enough just to enforce existing rules, or should those very rules be changed?

The crux of the debate is well expressed by a Tony Blair soundbite: "Rights and responsibilities". From every side of the political spectrum people are revising their ideas about the kinds of entitlements the poor and the unemployed should have, and about what it is fair to demand in return.

But while these are proper questions to ask, we should beware seeking fashionable answers across the Atlantic. The new US welfare bill, which right-wing politicians and commentators suggest we emulate, has the balance between rights and responsibilities

completely wrong. While it is legitimate to place new obligations on those who accept state support, they have to be practicable, and they have to be matched by extra state help as well.

A consensus is certainly emerging that the present system needs change. The welfare state was designed 50 years ago for a very different society and a very different labour market. Men worked, women, by and large, did not. More marriages lasted longer (however happily). Even men with no skills or qualifications at all could find work. None of this is any longer so. Men and women can find themselves unemployed for years at a time. Jobs for the unskilled are hard to find, except at rates of pay which leave people worse off than on benefits. And absent fathers are hitched up with expensive second families.

It should be no shock to discover that the state's obligations to the poor and unemployed need to be revised for the turn of the century. After all, the idea that the state should take responsibility for insuring people against unemployment, and protecting families against poverty, is a historical aberration in the grand scheme of things. For thousands of years, families that could not support themselves relied on the church, charity or the patronising compassion of their local community to stop them starving.

In Britain, most of us agree that the



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 6DL
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

state should continue to help those who lose their jobs and ameliorate poverty, especially among children. And the minimum we expect from benefit recipients in return is that they play fair. The net-curtain brigade is as good a way to ensure that as any other. Most people agree too that the state should not just rest at handing out cash, and should encourage people into jobs as well. The "welfare-to-work" proposals embodied in the pilot schemes in Kenneth Clarke's 1994 budget, and the more ambitious Labour plans to guarantee jobs and training for the long-term unemployed and the under-25s are all

steps in the right direction.

But how much should we expect from the poor and unemployed in return? As far as the Republicans in the US are concerned, an awful lot. Their new bill, cheerily described by the President as a way to "end welfare as we know it", by getting people off welfare and into work, limits benefit entitlement for families to only two years, before the head of the family must find work. In other words, in exchange for those two years of taxpayers' support, parents have to accept their own responsibility to get a job, and finance their families in the longer

term. Tough it is. But Clinton himself would presumably prefer to describe it as "tough love".

Right-wing politicians and commentators, including John Redwood, have welcomed the US approach. But the balance of rights and responsibilities it sets out is unrealistic and unfair. For a start, it is immoral to set people responsibilities that they cannot possibly fulfil. When the benefits run out after two years, some parents will still find it hard to get work that pays enough to keep the family. Moreover single parents, who make up most of the people the US bill will affect, will have even more problems finding work that pays well enough to cover their child-care costs as well.

It is all very well setting realistic incentives and responsibilities for those who can work and support themselves, but punishing those who can't - including single mothers and the children they are trying to bring up - is cruel.

The problem with the US version of new responsibilities is that they are not accompanied by enough new rights. If the state ensures that people have real opportunities to work, including child care where necessary, then it has far more justification for cutting entitlement when people turn them down.

Labour's proposals for the young unemployed are a better model than the US welfare bill. Anyone under 25 out of work more than six months

would be offered training, wage subsidies for private sector jobs, voluntary or public sector employment. If they turn down reasonable offers, then their benefits will be reduced.

No one is pretending it will be easy to create a fair, effective and affordable welfare system for the 21st century. But while we catch the fraudsters by whatever legitimate means, we should also remember that most of the poor and unemployed need and deserve active state help to stand on their own two feet.

Number's up for phone box ads

Call girl cards could soon become collectors' items. Telephone companies and local authorities have come up with the excellent idea of disconnecting phone numbers that appear on the increasingly lewd ads stuffed in phone boxes in all kinds of inner-city areas. In one fell swoop, those explicit photocopies of naked women, complete with salacious invitations, should vanish. But won't pranksters be able to highlight the numbers of irritating acquaintances by running up dummy cards? Let's hope not, because this looks like the second legitimate invasion of individual liberty in a single day.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opposition to Bill Clinton's welfare reform

Sir: Nicholas Timmins misses the central point that Bill Clinton was unable to deliver his welfare reforms largely because, between 1992 and 1994, a Democrat Congress prevented him from doing so ("Welfare: Clinton's lesson for Blair", 2 August).

Elected as a New Democrat, Clinton faced a Congress dominated by old-style liberals unmoved by the groundswell of popular support for the New Democrat agenda. Determined to oppose the President's welfare proposals, Congress opened up divisions between themselves and the White House. And those divisions were exploited by Republicans in the 1994 Congress elections.

Herein lies the real lesson for Labour. Should a few Labour MPs decide to take it upon themselves to try to frustrate Labour's plans for welfare reform, they will allow a right-wing populist to offer simple harsh solutions to those problems Tony Blair will have been prevented from tackling.

That would be a tragedy for the millions of people in Britain who need yet more right-wing dogma like they need a hole in the head. DAVID JOHN COLLINS, Groombridge, Kent

Sir: John Redwood welcomes the Clinton welfare reform (report, 2 August). Since he has so decided an opinion can he tell us what he believes will happen to the people who will lose welfare benefits as a result of these reforms? If he answers this question can he tell us how he knows? If he does not answer it can he tell us why he believes he is entitled to recommend a major policy change without knowing its consequences?

At present the DSS is not aware of any serious research on what happens to people who have been disenfranchised to social security benefit. It is irresponsible to recommend any further measures of disenfranchisement until such research exists.

John Redwood also says that on many points Tony Blair is to the right of him. I make no comment on the general proposition but if he expects Mr Blair to support the Clinton welfare reforms he is surely being unjust to him. He cannot possibly support such proposals while he claims to be "tough on causes of crime". EARL RUSSELL, House of Lords, London SW1

Sir: The disturbing thing about President Clinton's decision to sign the US Welfare Reform Bill is that this new bill is in contravention to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (Article 4) of which America is one of the signatory nations.

The effects of more recent reductions in US welfare programmes is now being seen across the US, especially in low income family groups with children. Community health organisations across the US are recording increasing malnutrition amongst children from poor families. Children who are underweight compared to the expected weight for children of their various age groups.

The already reduced welfare food stamp programme now results in many American families living at or below third world levels of nutrition. DAN DRAPER, Caversham, Isle of Wight

Forum for religious dialogue

Sir: Robert Fisk ("Burying the Crusader's sword", 1 August) writes that the "American-Israeli peace process" is finally crumbling into dust in the aftermath of the Likud election victory yet he cannot be unaware of the recent meeting between President Mubarak of Egypt and Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel which left the Egyptian leader confident that the peace process would go on. Nor can he be unaware of today's meeting in Amman between King Hussein and Mr Netanyahu, nor reports of a meeting between them here in the UK a week ago.

He is right, however, to denounce the language of hatred which characterises so many exchanges between the parties in what might properly be described as religious conflicts. I am happy to tell him, and to share with your readers, that the International Council of Christians and Jews has established and is fostering an "Abrahamic Forum" - Christians, Jews and Muslims - with the declared purpose of facilitating contacts, dialogue and co-operation on equal terms between Christians, Jews and Muslims who in terms of their respective scriptures and traditions all trace the origins of their faiths to Abraham and are committed to developing attitudes of mutual respect and acceptance of one another in full acknowledgement of their religious and other differences.

This is no pie-in-the-sky project. The dialogue is taking place and is being pursued on all sides. Last month, at the annual consultation

of the International Council of Christians and Jews in Mainz, Muslim delegates were present at the invitation of the ICCJ's young leadership.

Sir SIGMUND STERNBERG, Chairman - Executive Committee International Council of Christians and Jews, The Sternberg Centre for Judaism, London N3

How to make a sporting nation

Sir: Having been a physical education teacher for 30 years I know that if we want a healthy, active, vibrant, successful sporting nation then physical education has to be given better status in schools. School governors view physical education as an optional extra. Headteachers consider it the "below stairs" alternative activity. Ofsted inspectors do not afford physical education the respect that a subject which reflects and promotes the active, positive attitude of a fit person with high self-esteem should merit.

Good fitness practice and breathing techniques are a national joke, as is the hard, sometimes onerous physical work that has to accompany them. Children's fitness levels are at an all-time low in this country. With youngsters no longer playing outside, and probably only taking exercise if accompanied by caring, active parents, without dynamic input through physical education things will only get worse.

Every time there are international competitions and we are seen to be light years away from the professional standards and financial structuring of the rest of the world there are howls of disbelief. We still live in the days of the gentlemen and the players, and think we have a divine right to win.

Sporting success does much for the morale and self-esteem of the nation. It does not detract from academic standards. Well managed, it augments them. Let us put credibility into physical education in schools. POPPY COPE, Sandy, Bedfordshire

Quality of service

Sir: Nicholas Timmins reports (Significant Shorts, 1 August) the Government's Efficiency Unit's findings that the cost of Competing for Quality (CFQ) reviews of civil service functions with an annual value of over £250,000 (28 per cent of all reviews) outweighed any savings they may have generated.

In total, just under half of all tendering exercises under the CFQ banner cost as much, if not more, than the Government alleges they have saved.

The clearest message to have come from this report is the damaging effect which market testing and contracting out have had on the civil service. Before the Competing for Quality initiative, 83 per cent of departments were happy with the quality of service provided. Today, the report finds that a third of them now believe that service has

deteriorated: 97 per cent of civil servants find the CFQ programme demotivating, and the cost associated with the programme, on expenses such as external consultants and contract management, is over £90m per year.

This report largely confirms the arguments of the Civil and Public Services Association that the Competing for Quality initiative has had little to do with improving the civil service and much in doing with this government's ideological distaste for anything associated with the public sector. BARRY REAMSBOTTOM, General Secretary, Civil and Public Services Association, London SW11

Testing time

Sir: There's nothing new in the search for an examination which tests would be higher education applicants across a range of useful non-specialist skills ("New examination system set to boost A-level pass rate", 5 August). The Joint Matriculation Board offers an Advanced Level General Studies paper which examines literacy, numeracy, comprehension skills, essay-writing, and a modern language.

Most A-level entrants of reasonable competence passed this examination during the period 1975-1986 when I was working in schools. It could appropriately be made an essential requirement for the 18-year-old entrant to university. CHRISTINE HODGSON, London E7

No place for spies in this democracy

Sir: May I use your columns to make the strongest protest that I can on the Government using the people to spy on the people ("Cheatlines in trap benefit fraudsters", 5 August). I can remember the 1930s when as a young man I handed my life, as did so many others, to my country to help wipe out regimes that used the same tactics and even went so far as to get children to spy on their own parents.

Now we hear that a government department has offered a free telephone line for people to give evidence against their neighbours, whom they suspect of fraudulently using welfare funds. This is reminiscent of the old Mata Hari films where "pillow talk" cost lives. To those like me who still remember, Hitler's crowd were on the extreme right of politics also and they loved people telling on other people because that was how they held control.

I am against fraud of any sort from those who work the benefit system to those who walk off with many thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money by working the tax system or taking money from false pretences from pension funds, etc. But if the reported savings made were to be promised for an investigation into who are the 600,000 elderly people not claiming benefit when they should I would still protest at people being urged to spy on other people. We do not want volunteer spies in this democracy. JACK L THAIN, Lowestoft, Suffolk

Housing the tomorrow people

Sir: Town and Country Planners have worked themselves up into a stew about the latest round of household projections ("Towns to grow in green fields", 1 August). The core of the problem is the interpretation of the statistics.

The fact that there are 4.4 million extra households does not mean 4.4 million new homes need building. New house building will be only one of a range of policies needed to house the tomorrow people. Adaptations, conversions and renovation of the existing stock and re-utilising the hundreds of thousands of empty private-sector properties will be as important.

The real issue is not what the household projections show but the economic trends that indicate that the gap between rich and poor will widen leading to even greater residentialisation in social housing and imbalanced communities. Tackling this will be the real challenge for the next century. MICHAEL WAGSTAFF, Goudhurst, Kent

Sir: David Walker is absolutely right to call for a return to visionary planning for land, housing and transport ("Planning without sacred cows", 31 July). Planning is not just about preventing development.

If planning is to have more credibility it must be because those involved have the courage to offer a vision of the future which can command broad support. That vision must encompass and link together economic viability, social equity, sustainability and a view of development as a positive force which we can channel to bring new life, prosperity and vitality to our cities, towns and villages. Too often our knee-jerk reaction to new development is to see it as a problem rather than as an opportunity.

Taking such a vision forward will then be a political issue - it will require the building of a consensus. At the moment not only do we lack the vision but there is little sign of the sort of political consensus-building necessary to achieve it. MICHAEL GWILLIAM, Director, Civic Trust, London, SW1

Gannin to the Toon

Sir: Since the Tories destroyed a major justification for true Geordie pride - Newcastle-upon-Tyne's heavy engineering, mining and manufacturing base - it is grudgingly accepted that the rest of the world is now recognising that the region has other reasons to be joyful (Leading article: "We're all gannin to the Toon", 2 August).

Grudgingly only because tourism adds little wealth in depth and one of the attractions of the area, the relative emptiness of the region, will soon be lost if there is a massive influx of visitors. At least proper Geordies will be able to console themselves by laughing at the attempts of headline writers, and others, to reproduce the dialect. "We're all gannin in the Toon" indeed! Have you never heard the anthem of the Geordies, the "Blaydon Races"? What you were searching for was "gannin", as in "we're gannin along the Scotswood Road".

Professor MICHAEL J RENNIE, Department of Anatomy and Physiology, University of Dundee

analysis

US takes first prize for self-delusion

America thinks it's the greatest, even when the whole world can see its failures. Godfrey Hodgson takes the European view

"U-S-A!" There were times when there was something

ickening, even menacing about the rhythmic chanting, times when it made the hearer wonder what it would have been like to have been in Berlin in 1936.

There was something ugly, too, about the Atlanta crowd's insupporting reactions. When South Africa's Wayne Ferreira, playing out of his socks, was eading André Agassi, the crowd regularly applauded his mistakes. It was a small thing, but it left little doubt that to the some crowd, the Olympic ideal was meaningless. The point was not to take part or to compete bravely, but to win; and most important of all was for Americans to win.

Not too much in that, you might say. Indeed, to many Americans it would sound like sour grapes. If Britain had been doing as well as the United States seemed to be doing, who can doubt that British crowds would be baying for blood as they did in Euro 96; and all the more desperately anxious for victory because it had been so rare?

What shocked many foreign visitors to Atlanta was the contrast between the shining office towers and the tacky commercialism of the streets underneath. The world has been so conditioned to believe that American society is super-efficient that visitors and contestants were genuinely surprised that buses ran late and the organisation so often broke down. The bomb, whoever turns out to have planted it, was a tragic accident that could have happened anywhere. But the contrast between the boasting of the organisers and the chaos they were presiding over did come as a surprise.

Another contrast is even more striking. Viewers of NBC's coverage would have got the impression that the Games were a triumph for American sports. But relatively speaking, the United States did not in fact do so very well in Atlanta.

An American contestant was quoted as saying the Olympics were like a domestic meet with a few foreigners. The reality is that the foreigners not only did better than before. They did better than the Americans.

You don't believe it? To be sure there were stunning American performances from Carl Lewis and Michael Johnson. But whether you count gold medals, or the overall tally of medals, the surprising fact is that the United States did significantly worse than Western



Dream Team: the US men's basketball players did win a gold, but overall America didn't do as well as it seemed to think

Photograph: Aubrey Washington/Emics

Europe, let alone than Europe as a whole.

The United States, as of Saturday evening, had won 42 gold medals. The fifteen nations of the European Union had won 72 - to which Britain contributed just one. Western Europe, of whose existence, let alone of whose athletic prowess, the American TV commentators seemed to be almost unaware, actually won 75 per cent more gold medals than the United States.

If you count all medals, the discrepancy is even greater. The United States won 99 medals. The European Union, with a similar population, won 218. Europe as a whole (including Russia) won 413 medals - more than four times as many as the United States.

The comparison is interest-

ing in itself. You might conclude from it, for example, that the massive public investment in athletics tracks, gyms, tennis courts, swimming pools and above all coaching in Western Europe (though not in Britain) has paid off, while the ultra-commercialisation of sport in the US (and increasingly in Britain) has not steered resources in sufficient quantities to the young people who need them if they are to become champions.

You could pursue that thought further still, if you were so minded. You could say that in the days when massive funding was available to public high schools and to publicly funded universities like the University of California, the United States really did rule track and field. Now, in the era of big money pro sports and the winner-take-

all-society, that supremacy has been eroded.

A second line of thought would focus on asking why, when such a dramatic reversal of the athletic relationship between Europe and the United States was taking place, it was almost wholly ignored by the British media. British newspapers and television reporting from Atlanta focused on British athletics failure and the tacky commercialism and organisational incompetence of the Games. No one pointed out the interesting fact that, while Americans were being told by their media that they were Numero Uno, they were actually worse than the despised Europeans.

Some commentators did point out that NBC's coverage averted its eyes from American defeat like a Victorian virgin averting her eyes from the facts of life. But most accepted at face value the proposition that the United States was once again triumphant as well as triumphant when a simple check of the daily medal count would have shown this was not so. Indeed, for quite a long period France and Germany alone, with roughly half the population of the US, had actually won more gold medals between them than the United States.

The question is not why the United States is chauvinist. Virtually all nations are chauvinist if their results in war, in the marketplace or on the sports-

field give them any excuse. The question is why American chauvinism has got so far out of touch with reality.

An immediate cause is the political creed of Reaganism. A major part of the appeal of the new conservatism in the late 1970s and the 1980s was its reassurance that Americans could put the humiliations and the frustrations of the 1960s and the early 1970s behind them.

When Ronald Reagan and his handlers chose "It's morn-

ing in America" as the slogan of his successful 1984 re-election campaign, they were calculating on a deep national yearning to forget urban disruption, racial conflict, declining competitiveness, ejection from Vietnam, the Panama canal and Iran. That slogan and that campaign were spectacularly successful. Americans desperately wanted to believe that a long national nightmare was over.

Unfortunately, they developed the habit in the Reagan years of wanting so badly to believe they were doing well that they stopped looking to see how well they actually were doing. Thus, for example, many Americans devoutly believe

that the vast majority of their population is made up of university graduates, when the actual figure is 23 per cent and has scarcely moved up in 20 years.

Worse, quite a few American intellectuals acquired the habit of being contemptuously angry with anyone - American or foreign - who dared to raise questions about the superiority of the imperial wardrobe. Great reputations were made in the US media by those who jeered at any who questioned

the Ukraine, Lancashire factories and the downstairs of London.

It is not wholly unjustified. It really is the case that emigration to the United States was a liberating experience, the offer of new life. In some cases, let us not forget, this was literally true. American Jews are specially conscious of that. If their parents had not emigrated, said Irving Howe, the historian of the Lower East Side, "we might all have been bars of soap".

Having said that, it is not good for people or for nations if their picture of themselves diverges too acutely from reality, or from the perception of others. To convince yourself that you have won in an athletic contest which you actually lost is not a good idea.

It is even less of a good idea in foreign policy. The Cold War is over, but there are signs that Americans are casting round for new enemies to replace the communists, and that the American news media and American politicians are encouraging them to do so.

When the federal building in Oklahoma City was bombed, the initial reaction was to blame the Arabs. Well, it wasn't the Arabs; it was American super-patriots. Now President Clinton seems intent on picking a quarrel with Iran on the grounds that it is the sponsor of terrorism. But the evidence is shaky, the consequences of punitive action against Iran dodgy to say the least, and the idea that all, or even most, terrorism comes from Iran absurd.

Trade policy is another example. The Clinton administration's spokesmen behaved as if the only reason the Japanese don't buy left-hand drive Chevrolets is because their government is opposed to free competition. Let's be more "aggressive", they said, like cheerleaders at a high school football game - and put most of the world's hacks up.

It may just be possible to persuade people in Britain of the innate moral superiority of American civilisation: since we speak English, we have been exposed to dangerously high levels of indoctrination. In any case we are going through cultural panic on a historic scale.

American exceptionalism, though, is less likely to appeal to Frenchmen and Germans, Japanese and Russians; let alone Africans and Muslims, Chinese and Japanese. It is dangerous for Americans to persuade themselves that the world accepts their own view of themselves - particularly if that self-perception comes to diverge too far from the truth.

Preoccupied with flattering the American people in the run-up to re-election, Bill Clinton can be expected to chant U-S-A! Indeed, only yesterday he did just that, when he insisted that the United States was "indispensable". Viewing the world through the lenses of news media that have all but ceased to notice the existence of Europe and demonised Islam, the voters he is trying to woo cannot be blamed for thinking that the world saw the Atlanta Games as the apotheosis of American capitalism. What they really suggested to many for the first time was that maybe the United States talks a better game than it plays.

The point was not to take part or to compete bravely, but to win

ing in America" as the slogan of his successful 1984 re-election campaign, they were calculating on a deep national yearning to forget urban disruption, racial conflict, declining competitiveness, ejection from Vietnam, the Panama canal and Iran. That slogan and that campaign were spectacularly successful. Americans desperately wanted to believe that a long national nightmare was over.

Unfortunately, they developed the habit in the Reagan years of wanting so badly to believe they were doing well that they stopped looking to see how well they actually were doing. Thus, for example, many Americans devoutly believe

American supremacy. Some of the Numero Uno complex was grounded in undeniable fact. The United States does have the world's highest and most powerful single economy, just as it was the biggest single medal-winner in the Olympics. Americans individually are still just about the richest people in the world - though the gap has shrunk dramatically over the past 30 years.

But the impression of superiority conferred by the sheer size of the single unit can sometimes lead American opinion-formers to exaggerate the margin by which they lead the world. Nothing could be more natural than for ordinary Americans, accustomed from

their childhood to be told their country is the richest, the strongest, the most successful, their teeth the whitest and their cars the fastest, not to notice that in many respects the margin of that superiority has dwindled and even in some respects disappeared.

That is not the worst of it, though. One of the movements that sprung up to challenge the assumptions of traditional American liberalism in the late 1960s and the 1970s was the neo-conservative movement, and one of the shibboleths of neo-conservatism was what is called "American exceptionalism".

This is not the view that the United States is bigger, stronger or richer than its rivals. It is the belief, deeply grounded in American history and in American religion, that the United States is morally superior to other nations.

With loving complacency, the exceptionalists roll on their tongues the sacred texts of complacency, evoking America, "a city built upon a hill"; the American, "this new man"; the United States, "the last best hope of mankind".

American exceptionalism is not new. It was carried to New England by its Puritan founders and carried across a continent by preachers and divines. It was also a belief that appealed to those who had left feudal, ethnic or economic exploitation in Ireland, Poland and Sicily, in

seconds of spoken notes" (about the time it takes to read the preceding paragraph out loud).

In a few years time I may need the Wonder Trimmer, for unwanted ooze and ear hair. But I am still too nervous of such a gadget running amok when inserted into the relevant orifice. One wonders how many hapless purchasers are to be found in casualty departments, a nasty buzzing noise emerging from places where unwanted hair doth grow.

So I have plumped for the Chin Gym, which invites you to hang weights from your mouth, so strengthening a group of heretofore undiscovered muscles. And since it "can be highly effective used with the complementary Facial Flex", a gob-inserted spring which "does for your face what workouts do for your body", I'll have that as well. The "roll-on for ageing life" sounds handy too, for those days ahead when the grout will doubtless afflict me. Even if it does look horribly like that rubbery tooth-buffer of yore.

Tales from beyond the Wellypad

My name is David and I am a junk-mail junkie. These are my confessions; please try to understand and not to judge me too harshly.

Of course I know that I ought to tick the little boxes which would spare me the exciting "thump" of cellophane on the hall mat. But I don't, and the catalogues and offers from eager mail-order companies arrive regularly to fascinate and tempt me. *Innovations* straps me to the cutting edge of electronic gadgetry. *Oxiam* will save whole Peruvian mountain cultures for the price of an alpaca throw-rug. *Fast Times* would permit me to place a replica 50s Bakelite radio (with ultra-modern CD capacity) alongside my Isle of Lewis chessmen. There must be houses in the English Home Counties that resemble curio stalls inside.

Not mine, however. For most of my adult life I have browsed, but refused to buy. A flirtation in the early Eighties with a tooth-buffer (after one buff it seized up - due, I think, to the unfortunate presence of saliva in my mouth), and

another with a contraption for getting painted-over screws out of walls, left me too well aware of the gap between the happy photos of an attractive model huffing pearly teeth, and the nasty, rubbery, stuttering reality.

And then my mother - my parsimonious, careful, why-do-people-pay-money-to-drink-water-out-of-bottles mother - succumbed in a big way. She started with bric-a-brac for Christmas time: foot-warmers from Nepal, candle-holders from Gujarat, glow-stars for the kids' bedrooms. But the habit grew. Last year she bought a revolutionary new type of vacuum cleaner, with no dust-bags. Secretly I questioned her sanity and worried about the future - if her vacuum cleaner was anything like my tooth-buffer we'd end up having to call in some industrial cleaning company, charged with removing embedded particles of dirt and furniture (and, possibly, mother) from walls and ceilings.

I made the mistake of telling her of my fears. So when her



David Aaronovitch

vacuum won a string of major design awards and its inventor became lionised as the most brilliant designer/entrepreneur since Sir Clive Sinclair's early days, I was forced to eat my words. And - as a result - I began to look at the junk-mail with a new respect. Perhaps things had changed? So last month I had the cordless kettle. And the mini-turntable. As I opened the brown cardboard packaging it was as though I were a child again, and it was my birthday. Except, of course, that I'd bought all the presents myself.

Anyway, this morning the latest catalogue arrived, and I spent the train journey to work lusting for, or puzzling over, its

contents. I certainly desire the Smart-lamp, which turns itself on when it senses your presence. I like things which sense my presence and turn themselves on - such as CD players, televisions and young women. I am tempted (following installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors) by the hammer for breaking car windows and the rope ladders for the upstairs bedrooms. You cannot be too careful. The Wellypad, which scrapes the mud off your wellies, helps you take them off, and then parks them in sanitary isolation on a green mat could be a boon.

Some items have no obvious purpose. I was slightly concerned by the machine that logs all calls, showing the originating number, whether or not the caller leaves a message on the answer-phone. What could this be for? A way of detecting nuisance-callers who aren't actually a nuisance?

Then there are the unexpected combinations, such as the only alarm clock with storm-warnings and the pen that allows you to record "20

WITH OUR COMPLIMENTARY GIFT, INDULGE IN THE MAGIC OF

GIVENCHY

Treat yourself to an Amarige or Ysatis 50ml Eau de Toilette Natural Spray and receive a refined, feminine and refillable Purse Spray which will enable you to enjoy the magic of Amarige or Ysatis, wherever you may be.



Gift with the purchase of an Amarige or Ysatis 50ml Eau de Toilette, or goods to the same value. Available from department stores, larger branches of Boots, perfumeries and good chemists, while stocks last.

news

Howard to retain powers on life sentences

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES
Legal Affairs Editor

The fixing of minimum terms for adult murderers serving mandatory life sentences, and decisions on their release, must remain with the Home Secretary, the Government insisted yesterday.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, rejected calls by MPs to abolish his right to decide "tariffs" and whether to release prisoners on licence, saying his role in dealing with

adult murderers marked the unique nature of the crime and should remain.

The Government was responding to Commons Home Affairs Select Committee recommendations in June that while the mandatory life sentence should remain and that there should be no changes to the definition of murder, the final authority on the tariff – the proportion of sentence reflecting punishment and deterrence – should be the Court of Appeal, and Parole Board later

panels should decide on release. The committee reached that view after David Ashby, Conservative MP for Leicestershire North West, voted with Labour members.

Mr Howard said yesterday that the Government "would not lightly disagree" with the committee's conclusions. But he insisted that the move would reduce public confidence in the criminal justice system, prevent direct accountability to Parliament for decisions on tariff and release, limit the consid-

erations made when reaching those decisions, and signal that murder was no longer viewed as a uniquely heinous crime.

He added: "I have made it clear, like my predecessors, that those responsible for the worst sort of murder, including terrorists, the murders of police and prison officers, sexual and sadistic murderers of children and those who use firearms in the course of robbery, will normally serve at least 20 years in prison."

"Many will serve longer than

that and some will never be released."

The response comes in the wake of the Court of Appeal's ruling that Mr Howard wrongly exercised his discretion to increase the tariff to be served by the child murderers of the toddler James Bulger, and persistent calls from rights organisations and the judiciary for murder to be punishable by the discretionary life sentence, which would give courts more freedom to tailor sentences to the circumstances of the crime.

Following a European Court of Human Rights ruling in 1990, the Home Secretary has already lost his powers to decide on the release of discretionary life prisoners – those jailed for serious offences other than murder, such as manslaughter or rape – once they are assessed as being no further risk to society. But Mr Howard is determined to resist any further erosion of his powers. Nor is it likely, moreover, that a Labour government would make radical changes to the overall

regime governing adult killers.

Under the current system, the Home Secretary can alter tariffs recommended by trial judges and the Lord Chief Justice. Likewise, he can reject parole board recommendations for the release of mandatory life prisoners in some cases; the Law Lords have ruled that "broad" considerations of a public character can be taken into account at that stage.

Yesterday's response said: "The Home Secretary is himself in a unique position. No other

authority, either judicial or independent, can be held directly accountable to Parliament for the safety of the public, and for the effectiveness of, and public accountability in, the criminal justice system."

The Government has also rejected the committee's suggestions that victims' relatives be given the right to nominate a legal representative to attend life panel hearings and for the tariff recommended by the trial judge to be publicly declared in open court.

Peak's best known eyesore leaves a mark of success

In the second part of our series on national parks, **Stephen Goodwin** reports on an unwelcome presence

Tanks on the cliffs of Pembrokeshire, soldiers shooting their way across Dartmoor, big guns and rockets pounding the moors of Northumberland. Successive public inquiries have concluded that military training is "discordant, incongruous and inconsistent with National Park purposes".

And he same could be said of quarrying. Whole mountain sides are being removed in the Yorkshire Dales and the Peak District to provide aggregate for roads.

But here are fears that both the military use and quarrying seem to be increasingly tolerated. From Rushup Edge in the Peak, the 300ft-tall, tiered cliff of Eldon Hill Quarry dominates the southern skyline, slicing into the highest limestone in the park. It is acknowledged as "the best known eyesore in the Peak", but in one sense it is a success story.

Eldon Hill will close in 1999. An application by North West Aggregates, a subsidiary of RMC Roadstone, to extend the working life of the quarry to 2004 was refused last September. The company said it wanted time to complete a landscape restoration scheme – it just happened that it would take out another 5 million tonnes of stone along the way. But the Peak District authority was able to say no, purely because the closure date had been fixed after public inquiry in 1987.

This year, when Tilcon proposed extending and deepening

Swinden Quarry in Wharfedale, in the Yorkshire Dales, the company got the go-ahead on the casting vote of the park chairman.

Swinden is already the busiest quarry in the Dales and the plan is to extract 2 million tonnes of stone a year until the year 2020.

"That sent a signal to the industry that the Secretary of State isn't going to worry," says Amanda Nibbs, director of the Council for National Parks. Pleading poverty, the Countryside Commission has dropped out of the fight against quarrying bids.

The quarrymen have seized the moment and are pressing for extensions in the North York Moors and Northumberland parks. Nor is the re-owed activity confined to limestone. Concern over the loss of jobs has persuaded park authorities to approve more slate quarrying in Snowdonia and the Lake District.

Only five quarries produce the distinctive grey Lake District slate, but the rates and methods of extraction are anything but traditional.

Pettis Quarry, above Ambleside, employs about 50 people. Slate is to be quarried from another two acres of hillside. Ninety per cent of the rock will be waste and the scars will be visible from the shores of Windermere.

Dartmoor has double trouble. Waste from china clay workings may soon be dumped on Shaugh Moor, in the south-west of the park. And the



Disfiguring scar: Eldon Hill quarry – the Peak's best known eyesore – which will cease working next year after an extension application was refused Photograph: Tom Pilston

Army continues to operate across a third of Dartmoor. Even when red flags are not flying, the words "Danger Area" on the Ordnance Survey map deter the nervous.

The Prince of Wales's green credentials were deeded four years ago when the Duchy of Cornwall renewed the Army's licence to carry on firing artillery and mortars on 20,000

acres of its estate. "We were appalled when the Duchy signed away all this land for another 21 years," said Kate Ashbrook, president of the Dartmoor Preservation Association. "It

was an opportunity for the Prince to do something for Dartmoor. He could have said 'Three more years to make new arrangements and then you're out.' Instead, for most of the

year, it is the public who are "out". Despite repeated criticism by official inquiries, the military has not noticeably scaled back its manoeuvres in the parks.

Indeed, the opposite may happen: the Government has said the withdrawal of forces from Germany may involve "more intensive use" of existing training areas.



Walk on the wild side: Lt-Col Mike Bradley with his dog on Otterburn Ranges, Northumberland Photograph: Tom Pilston

Northumberland fights Army over increase in shoot and scoot

Of all the conflicts in the national parks, none compares in scale or bitterness to the battle over the Army's plan to upgrade its Otterburn training area in Northumberland to accommodate the 45-tonne AS90 self-propelled gun and the multi-launch rocket system, writes Stephen Goodwin.

The training area covers almost a quarter of the national park. It is rolling moorland; 58,000 acres of coarse grasses, heather and craggy outcrops stretching north to the Cheviots, home to the curlew and rarer species such as goshawk and black grouse which have prospered under the Army's stewardship.

Rusting hulks of "enemy" targets are dwarfed by the natural grandeur. "In Northumberland alone, both heaven and earth are seen," wrote the historian George Trevelyan. But live-firing means that for some 300 days a year the public are barred from even the rights of way over an unsurpassed slice of the county.

The Army moved into Otterburn in 1911. It provides 120 civilian jobs, spends £3.5m a year in local contracts, and helps keep alive the village shop and inn. It wants to upgrade the training area so that the artillery can hone its "shoot and scoot" tactics without sinking into the peaty moorland.

The national park accepts the presence of the military and the need to adapt for modern warfare. It was ready to say "Yes" to the wider roads, extensive maintenance facilities, and observation points but has balked at six of the proposed 46 gun spurs – the hard-surfaced areas from where the guns are fired.

"Our objections are based on the environmental impact," said a park spokesperson. "It's visual, it's a noise, it's the incongruity of some of the activities. We have moved an enormous distance. But the Army have not moved one inch on the scale of the development."

ignating and balancing measures", such as no live firing on August weekends and safeguards for ancient monuments, but remains adamant that the ability of AS90 and rocket-launcher crews to practise deployment procedures over 46 gun spurs cannot be compromised.

As Northumberland County Council have refused planning permission, the matter is in the hands of Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer. The Army has assembled a legal team in expectation of a public inquiry and is talking of costs of £2.5m – twice the annual budget of the national park.

Tomorrow: the parks' future

Planning rules could bar Oxford business school

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Oxford University's plans to use a £20m donation from a Saudi entrepreneur to help build a new management school on its sports ground could be blocked by planning regulations, it emerged last night.

The chair of the city council's planning committee has said that the land set aside for the new building was marked out for recreational purposes. Several more suitable sites had been rejected by the university, and the proposal was likely to face opposition from members of the committee, she said.

The donation from Wafic Said, best known for his role in facilitating the Al-Yamamah arms deal, will be matched by a similar sum raised by the university.

due to open in 1998, intends to compete with the best in the world and will take 100 students, including 150 on MBA courses. Mr Said is believed to be keen that it should be at the heart of both the city and the university.

With few green-field sites available in the centre of Oxford, the sports ground near Mansfield College was chosen as the most practical option. However, with protests on environmental and ethical grounds mounting among both staff and students, the university faces a tough battle to push its plans through.

Environmentalists have objected that the chosen site is an important "green lung" for Oxford, while some academics say management studies is not what the university does best. Others have suggested that it should not take money from a man who is involved in arms deals, even

though Mr Said is not an arms dealer himself and did not receive a commission for Al-Yamamah.

The proposal will be put before the university's congregation or "parliament" in November, and if it is approved planning permission will be sought.

Last night Sue Spencer, planning chair for the Labour-controlled council, said the draft local plan showed the sports ground as recreational ground. The university had presented its plans as a *fait accompli*, she added.

"The application will be treated on its merits, but I am surprised that all the sites with-in that environment weren't considered even though on balance some of them were much more suitable," she said.

A spokeswoman for the university said it intended to stick to its planned schedule.

Warning for BBC over World Service changes

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

BBC appointments to the World Service by John Birt, the Director General of the BBC, could be reversed under a guarantee given to the Government to head off criticism of changes to the way it is operated.

The Foreign Office minister, Jeremy Hanley, said guarantees had been made that there would be no irrevocable changes made to the staffing of the World Service before a working party has reported on Mr Birt's plans for an integrated newsroom for the BBC.

"We've got to say in the management of the BBC but we do have a say in the quality and to make sure that special nature is maintained. What the working group will have to look at is decide whether the integrated newsroom will cater for the

different needs of the World Service," Mr Hanley said on BBC radio.

"We have been given a guarantee that nothing that happens in the meantime will be irrevocable. If the BBC chooses to make management changes or certain appointments in that timescale, there is the understanding that they can be reversed if the quality and the ethos of the World Service was proved to be at risk by those changes."

He added: "There also has to be financial transparency because we provide £175m a year and we don't want that money to filter through to the mainstream BBC... There has to be the proper priority which serves our audience and not just serves the convenience of the BBC."

about the changes to the World Service which is funded on the Foreign Office budget. The joint Foreign Office-BBC working group will report to the Foreign Secretary, Sir Christopher Blair, chairman of the BBC, by the end of September.

Mr Hanley denied that Mr Rifkind would block any changes in October when he meets Sir Christopher, but it is clear that ministers will use the leverage of their funding for the World Service to limit the changes, which have deeply annoyed senior Tory backbenchers. Sir Christopher agreed to set up the working party under pressure from the Foreign Secretary to review the decision. It will be chaired by Christopher Battiscombe, a civil servant, and Sam Younger, World Service managing director. Yesterday it heard evidence from campaigners opposed to the changes.

Renewing your home insurance in August or September and want to save money?

- * Saga - The specialists in insurance for people aged 50 and over
- * Comprehensive, low cost cover
- * A service that is direct and trouble free
- * Discount for secure homes

Call free today! SAGA Services Ltd

0800 414 525 ext.3783

Lines open Monday to Friday 9am - 6pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

due to open in 1998, intends to compete with the best in the world and will take 100 students, including 150 on MBA courses. Mr Said is believed to be keen that it should be at the heart of both the city and the university.

due to open in 1998, intends to compete with the best in the world and will take 100 students, including 150 on MBA courses. Mr Said is believed to be keen that it should be at the heart of both the city and the university.

due to open in 1998, intends to compete with the best in the world and will take 100 students, including 150 on MBA courses. Mr Said is believed to be keen that it should be at the heart of both the city and the university.

due to open in 1998, intends to compete with the best in the world and will take 100 students, including 150 on MBA courses. Mr Said is believed to be keen that it should be at the heart of both the city and the university.

due to open in 1998, intends to compete with the best in the world and will take 100 students, including 150 on MBA courses. Mr Said is believed to be keen that it should be at the heart of both the city and the university.

due to open in 1998, intends to compete with the best in the world and will take 100 students, including 150 on MBA courses. Mr Said is believed to be keen that it should be at the heart of both the city and the university.

analysis

US takes first prize for self-delusion

America thinks it's the greatest, even when the whole world can see its failures. Godfrey Hodgson takes the European view

"U^{1-SI-AI}
There were times when there was something menacing about the rhythmic chanting, times when it made the hearer wonder what it would have been like to have been in Berlin in 1936.

There was something ugly, too, about the Atlanta crowd's sporting reactions. When South Africa's Wayne Ferreira, playing out of his socks, was eading André Agassi, the crowd regularly applauded his mistakes. It was a small thing, but it left little doubt that to the some crowd, the Olympic ideal was meaningless. The point was not to take part or to compete bravely, but to win; and most important of all was for Americans to win.

Not too much in that, you might say. Indeed, to many Americans it would sound like sour grapes. If Britain had been doing as well as the United States seemed to be doing, who can doubt that British crowds would be buying for blood as they did in Euro 96; and all the more desperately anxious for victory because it had been so rare?

What shocked many foreign visitors to Atlanta was the contrast between the shining office towers and the tacky commercialism of the streets underneath. The world has been so conditioned to believe that American society is super-efficient that visitors and contestants were genuinely surprised that buses ran late and the organisation so often broke down. The bomb, whoever turns out to have planted it, was a tragic accident that could have happened anywhere. But the contrast between the boasting of the organisers and the chaos they were presiding over did come as a surprise.

Another contrast is even more striking. Viewers of NBC's coverage would have got the impression that the Games were a triumph for American sports. But relatively speaking, the United States did not in fact do so very well in Atlanta.

An American contestant was quoted as saying the Olympics were like a domestic meet with a few foreigners. The reality is that the foreigners not only did better than before. They did better than the Americans.

You don't believe it? To be sure there were stunning American performances from Carl Lewis and Michael Johnson. But whether you count gold medals, or the overall tally of medals, the surprising fact is that the United States did significantly worse than Western



Dream Team: the US men's basketball players did win a gold, but overall America didn't do as well as it seemed to think

Photograph: Aubrey Washington/Empics

Europe, let alone than Europe as a whole.

The United States, as of Saturday evening, had won 42 gold medals. The fifteen nations of the European Union had won 72 – to which Britain contributed just one. Western Europe, of whose existence, let alone of whose athletic prowess, the American TV commentators seemed to be almost unaware, actually won 75 per cent more gold medals than the United States.

If you count all medals, the discrepancy is even greater. The United States won 99 medals. The European Union, with a similar population, won 218. Europe as a whole (including Russia) won 413 medals – more than four times as many as the United States.

The comparison is interest-

ing in itself. You might conclude from it, for example, that the massive public investment in athletics tracks, gyms, tennis courts, swimming pools and above all coaching in Western Europe (though not in Britain) has paid off, while the ultra-commercialisation of sport in the US (and increasingly in Britain) has not steered resources in sufficient quantities to the young people who need them if they are to become champions.

You could pursue that thought further still, if you were so minded. You could say that in the days when massive funding was available to public high schools and to publicly funded universities like the University of California, the United States really did rule track and field. Now, in the era of big money pro sports and the winner-take-

all-society, that supremacy has been eroded.

A second line of thought would focus on asking why, when such a dramatic reversal of the athletic relationship between Europe and the United States was taking place, it was almost wholly ignored by the British media. British newspapers and television reporting from Atlanta focused on British athletics failure and the tacky commercialism and organisational incompetence of the Games. No one pointed out the interesting fact that, while Americans were being told by their media that they were Numero Uno, they were actually worse than the despised Europeans.

Some commentators did point out that NBC's coverage averted its eyes from American defeat like a Victorian virgin averting her eyes from the face of life. But most accepted at face value the proposition that the United States was once again triumphant as well as triumphant when a simple check of the daily medal count would have shown this was not so. Indeed, for quite a long period France and Germany alone, with roughly half the population of the US, had actually won more gold medals between them than the United States.

The question is not why the United States is chauvinist. Virtually all nations are chauvinist if their results in war, in the marketplace or on the sports-

field give them any excuse. The question is why American chauvinism has got so far out of touch with reality.

An immediate cause is the political creed of Reaganism. A major part of the appeal of the new conservatism in the late 1970s and the 1980s was its reassurance that Americans could put the humiliations and the frustrations of the 1960s and the early 1970s behind them.

When Ronald Reagan and his handlers chose "It's morn-

ing in America" as the slogan of his successful 1984 re-election campaign, they were calculating on a deep national yearning to forget urban disruption, racial conflict, declining competitiveness, election from Vietnam, the Panama canal and Iran. That slogan and that campaign were spectacularly successful. Americans desperately wanted to believe that a long national nightmare was over.

Unfortunately, they developed the habit in the Reagan years of wanting so badly to believe they were doing well that they stopped looking to see how well they actually were doing. Thus, for example, many Americans devoutly believe

that the vast majority of their population is made up of university graduates, when the actual figure is 23 per cent and has scarcely moved up in 20 years.

Worse, quite a few American intellectuals acquired the habit of being contemptuously angry with anyone – American or foreign – who dared to raise questions about the superiority of the imperial wardrobe. Great reputations were made in the US media by those who jeered at any who questioned

The point was not to take part or to compete bravely, but to win

American supremacy.

Some of the Numero Uno complex was grounded in undeniable fact. The United States does have the world's highest and most powerful single economy, just as it was the biggest single medal-winner in the Olympics. Americans individually are still just about the richest people in the world – though the gap has shrunk dramatically over the past 30 years.

But the impression of superiority conferred by the sheer size of the single unit can sometimes lead American opinion-formers to exaggerate the margin by which they lead the world. Nothing could be more natural than for ordinary Americans, accustomed from

their childhood to be told their country is the richest, the strongest, the most successful, their teeth the whitest and their cars the fastest, not to notice that in many respects the margin of that superiority has dwindled and even in some respects disappeared.

That is not the worst of it, though. One of the movements that sprung up to challenge the assumptions of traditional American liberalism in the late 1960s and the 1970s was the neo-conservative movement, and one of the shibboleths of neo-conservatism was what is called "American exceptionalism".

This is not the view that the United States is bigger, stronger or richer than its rivals. It is the belief, deeply grounded in American history and in American religion, that the United States is morally superior to other nations.

With loving complacency, the exceptionalists roll on the tongues the sacred texts of complacency, evoking America, "a city built upon a hill"; the American, "this new man"; the United States, "the last best hope of mankind".

American exceptionalism is not new. It was carried to New England by its Puritan founders and carried across a continent by preachers and divines. It was also a belief that appealed to those who had left feudal, ethnic or economic exploitation in Ireland, Poland and Sicily, in

the Ukraine, Lancashire factories and the downstair of London.

It is not wholly unjustified. It really is the case that emigration to the United States was a liberating experience, the offer of new life. In some cases, let us not forget, this was literally true. American Jews are specially conscious of that. If their parents had not emigrated, said Irving Howe, the historian of the Lower East Side, "we might all have been bars of soap".

Having said that, it is not good for people or for nations if their picture of themselves diverges too acutely from reality, or from the perception of others. To convince yourself that you have won in an athletic contest which you actually lost is not a good idea.

It is even less of a good idea in foreign policy. The Cold War is over, but there are signs that Americans are casting round for new enemies to replace the communists, and that the American news media and American politicians are encouraging them to do so.

When the federal building in Oklahoma City was bombed, the initial reaction was to blame the Arabs. Well, it wasn't the Arabs; it was American super-patriots. Now President Clinton seems intent on picking a quarrel with Iran on the grounds that it is the sponsor of terrorism. But the evidence is shaky, the consequences of punitive action against Iran dodgy to say the least, and the idea that all, or even most, terrorism comes from Iran absurd.

Trade policy is another example. The Clinton administration's spokesmen behaved as if the only reason the Japanese don't buy left-hand drive Chevrolets is because their government is opposed to free competition. Let's be more "aggressive", they said, like cheerleaders at a high school football game – and put most of the world's backs up.

It may just be possible to persuade people in Britain of the innate moral superiority of American civilisation: since we speak English, we have been exposed to dangerously high levels of indoctrination. In any case we are going through cultural panic on a historic scale.

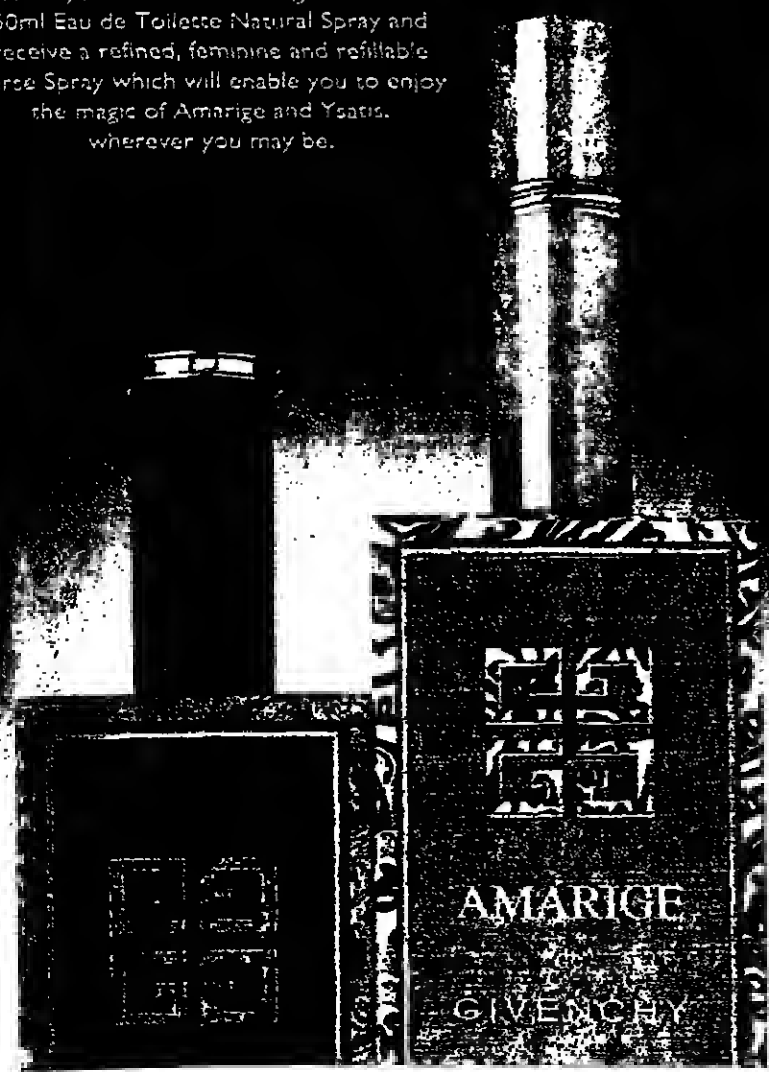
American exceptionalism, though, is less likely to appeal to Frenchmen and Germans, Japanese and Russians; let alone Africans and Muslims, Chinese and Japanese. It is dangerous for Americans to persuade themselves that the world accepts their own view of themselves – particularly if that self-perception comes to diverge too far from the truth.

Preoccupied with flattering the American people in the run-up to re-election, Bill Clinton can be expected to chant UI-SI-AI. Indeed, only yesterday he did just that, when he insisted that the United States was "indispensable". Viewing the world through the lenses of news media that have all but ceased to notice the existence of Europe and demonised Islam, the voters he is trying to woo cannot be blamed for thinking that the world saw the Atlanta Games as the apotheosis of American capitalism. What they really suggested to what for the first time was that maybe the United States talks a better game than it plays.

WITH OUR COMPLIMENTARY GIFT, INDULGE IN THE MAGIC OF

GIVENCHY

Treat yourself to an Amarige or Ysatis 50ml Eau de Toilette Natural Spray and receive a refined, feminine and refillable Pulse Spray which will enable you to enjoy the magic of Amarige and Ysatis, wherever you may be.



Gift with the purchase of an Amarige or Ysatis 50ml Eau de Toilette, or goods to the same value. Available from department stores, larger branches of Boots, perfumeries and good chemists, while stocks last.

Tales from beyond the Wellypad

My name is David and I am a junk-mail junkie. These are my confessions; please try to understand and not to judge me too harshly. Of course I know that I ought to tick the little boxes which would spare me the exciting "thump" of cellophane on the hall mat. But I don't, and the catalogues and offers from eager mail-order companies arrive regularly to fascinate and tempt me. Innovations straps me to the cutting edge of electronic gadgetry, Oxtail will save whole Peruvian mountain cultures for the price of an alpaca throw-rug, *Past Times* would permit me to place a replica 50s Bakelite radio (with ultra-modern CD capacity) alongside my Isle of Lewis chessmen. There must be houses in the English Home Counties that resemble curio stalls inside.

Not mine, however. For most of my adult life I have browsed, but refused to buy. A flirtation in the early Eighties with a tooth-buffer (after one huff it seized up – due, I think, to the unfortunate presence of saliva in my mouth), and

another with a contraption for getting painted-over screws out of walls, left me too well aware of the gap between the happy photos of an attractive model buffing pearly teeth, and the nasty, rubbery, stuttering reality.

And then my mother – my parsimonious, careful, why-do-people-pay-money-to-drink-water-out-of-bottles mother – succumbed in a big way. She started with bric-a-brac for Christmas time: foot-warmers from Nepal, candle-holders from Gujarat, glow-stars for the kids' bedrooms. But the habit grew. Last year she bought a revolutionary new type of vacuum cleaner, with no dust-bags. Secretly I questioned her sanity and worried about the future – if her vacuum cleaner was anything like my tooth-buffer we'd end up having to call in some industrial cleaning company, charged with removing embedded particles of dirt and furniture (and, possibly, mother) from walls and ceilings.

I made the mistake of telling her of my fears. So when her



David Aaronovitch

vacuum won a string of major design awards and its inventor became lionised as the most brilliant designer/entrepreneur since Sir Clive Sinclair's early days, I was forced to eat my words. And – as a result – I began to look at the junk-mail with a new respect. Perhaps things had changed? So last month I had the cordless kettle. And the mini-tumble. As I opened the brown cardboard packaging it was as though I were a child again, and it was my birthday. Except, of course, that I'd bought all the presents myself.

Anyway, this morning the latest catalogue arrived, and I spent the train journey to work lusting for, or puzzling over, its

contents. I certainly desire the Smart-lamp, which turns itself on when it senses your presence. I like things which sense my presence and turn themselves on – such as CD players, televisions and young women. I am tempted (following installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors) by the hammer for breaking car windows and the rope ladders for the upstairs bedrooms. You cannot be too careful. The Wellypad, which scrapes the mud off your wellies, helps you take them off, and then parks them in sanitary isolation on a green mat could be a boon.

Some items have no obvious purpose. I was slightly concerned by the machine that logs all calls, showing the originating number, whether or not the caller leaves a message on the answer-phone. What could this be for? A way of detecting nuisance-calls who aren't actually a nuisance?

Then there are the unexpected combinations, such as the only alarm clock with storm-warnings and the pen that allows you to record 20

seconds of spoken notes" (about the time it takes to read the preceding paragraph out loud).

In a few years time I may need the Wonder Trimmer, for unwanted nose and ear hair. But I am still too nervous of such a gadget running amok when inserted into the relevant orifice. One wonders how many hapless purchasers are to be found in casualty departments, a nasty buzzing noise emerging from places where unwanted hair doth grow.

So I have plumped for the Chin Gym, which invites you to hang weights from your mouth, so strengthening a group of heretofore undiscovered muscles. And since it "can be highly effective used with the complementary Facial Flex", a gob-inserted spring which "does for your face what workouts do for your body", I'll have that as well. The "roll-on for ageing the groin" sounds handy too, for those days ahead when tile grout will doubtless afflict me. Even if it does look horribly like that rubbery tooth-buffer of yore.

the commentators

Let's teach our children a different tune

A-levels are getting too easy, says a well-worn refrain. But today's exams are up to scratch, argues Fran Abrams

There must be a song in this somewhere. Summertime, and the exams are getting easier. The words sound vaguely familiar, though: I'm sure it has been done before.

In fact, the refrain is now playing in a right-wing newspaper near you, and it is beginning to sound a bit tired. After all, it has had a regular August slot ever since A-levels were introduced in 1951, and even before that, the tune was not much different. In 1876, the chief inspector of schools could be heard complaining that "accuracy in the manipulation of figures does not reach the same standard which was reached 20 years ago".

Most recently, there has been disquiet over the fact that the A-level pass rate has gone up by 10 per cent in five years, to 84 per cent. Now, this year, there is a new dimension to the debate: modular A-levels. Most readers will probably not have heard of these, because until now they have not been considered interesting enough to merit expenditure on newsprint. This week, however, the exam boards predicted that the modular exams would raise pass rates

and hey presto, they became big news. Put simply, modular A-levels are ones that allow students to sit a number of interim tests, rather than having all their marks based on a final exam. If students fail a test, they can retake it without having to repeat a year; and if they want to take time out, they can bank their credits and finish the course later.

Sounds good? It is, according to the exam boards. Their view is that students will be less likely to fail modular courses. They will be more highly motivated, and they can retake if they take a test on an "off" day. The pass rate will also benefit from pupils who, having failed several modules, realise that there is not point in completing the course - fewer failures, higher pass rates.

The traditionalists, however, object strongly. They say that a higher pass rate is evidence of lower standards, and that allowing students to take their A-levels in bite-sized chunks is giving them an unfair advantage.

They do have a point. No one wants a system in which a weak student can achieve good grades without reaching the same standard as another student taking traditional exams.

But steps are being taken to make sure that this does not happen. The number of resits may be limited, and the time limit for finishing the course could be tightened.

But there is a bigger issue here. Listen for long enough to the plaintive cries of the 'standards-aren't-what-they-used-to-be' lobby and an insidious, subliminal message begins to come through: "If more people are passing, there's something wrong," it hisses. "Why can't we go back to the good old days of the 1950s, when only 3 per cent of the population did A-levels and even fewer went to university?" We don't just want to know that students have mastered a certain body of knowledge; we want to know if they are clever enough to sustain their attention for two years and recall it all on demand.

But there are very good reasons for not going back to the past. One is that we need a more highly educated workforce than we used to - there are no longer jobs for huge numbers of people without skills or qualifications. The other is that the old system failed to tap the natural talents of the vast majority of the population. It was desperately

wasteful, not to mention downright unfair.

We have come a long way since then. Universities have expanded and can now take almost a third of young people. If we want to fill all those extra places, we cannot continue with the old, exclusive system. A strong 21st-century economy will be one in which the highest possible number of people are encouraged to strive for their full potential.

But instead of trying to measure, and stimulate, the success of our students, we are still setting many of them up to fail. Despite all the hand-wringing over rising pass rates, 13 out of 14 students are still taking conventional A-levels. Out of every 100, 15 drop out and a further 17 do not pass the final exams. If we do not want to lower the hurdles, we must find better ways of getting people over them.

And that is where modular A-levels come in. These new courses were taken by 50,000 students of maths, English and science this year and are set to grow rapidly. If they do raise pass rates, the reaction should be a rousing cheer, not a weary groan.

Who cares whether a student has passed an exam on Shakespeare's *Henry V* in the first term of the sixth form or in the sixth term, so long as he has passed it fair and square? What does it matter if he has learnt the complexities of scientific investigation through a series of modules rather than through an almost identical series of lessons on the same topics, examined at the end of the course? One might even ask, in a moment of heresy, whether society would really fall apart if passing exams did get a bit easier, so long as more people were able to go on and learn things that they would not have learnt otherwise.

Some lessons take a long time to learn, of course, and some people, particularly those who are old, traditionalist and set in their ways, take longer to learn them than others. So the chances are that the old vinyl recording will be cracking away on these pages and others like them for years to come.

Maybe the best advice to students worried about the devaluation of their exam results is this: just relax and wait for the fust to die down. After all, it's only an old song.

To imagine is to understand

Aborting a twin tests the limits of our morality, says Paul Vallely

There is something about the notion of performing an abortion on one of two twins in the womb that is peculiarly potent. It is popularly supposed that the nation is fundamentally polarised over abortion, and it is true that fierce views are held by activists in both the pro and anti-abortion lobbies. Yet the vast majority of people are far from categorical on the issue: their arguments are about degree and proportionality and are often tinged with an ill-defined sense of discomfort.

So what is it that gives this latest case such stinging singularity? In practice our society believes that the moral importance of a foetus grows with its size. Hence the unending debate about exactly when the cluster of cells turns into a person. Hence the more recent concern at what age a foetus begins to feel pain. Hence our complex rules on the treatment of frozen embryos, which give them a status less than that of a person but more than that of a piece of human tissue.

Anti-abortionists dismiss all this as intellectually dishonest. Just because an embryo is small and not visually familiar we choose to dismiss it in a way in which we would not dream of ignoring the reality of a germ or bacteria.

Conversely pro-abortionists might ask why the religious absolutism that fuels many of their opponents ignores the richness of much of their own theological inheritance. St Augustine insisted that the soul did not enter the foetus until the 46th day, and St Thomas Aquinas, following Aristotle, argued such "ensoulment" occurred at 40 days for the male and 90 for the female.

What the case of the single twin abortion shows is that such moral reasoning is not the entire basis on which our attitudes are formed. There is a something akin to an aesthetic dimension to our unease. That is why infanticide is illegal and abortion is not. It is why, if the house is on fire, we save the baby in its cot before the frozen embryo. But this sense goes beyond what is visually familiar. Our moral imagination - the ability to conjure what lies beyond our direct experience - comes into play.

This is why the plan to abort one of a pair of twins has such resonance. The possibility of the psychological scars the experience may leave on the survivor is disturbing. But the utter arbitrariness of choosing one to live and the other to die hits home at this aesthetic disquiet, as much as at moral disquiet.

In seeing one of her developing babies as a child to be embraced and the other as comparatively disposable, this unhappy woman is doing more than wrestling with a personal dilemma. She is embodying the moral and aesthetic ambivalence of our whole society.

Go early, go negative

The Tories began it, Labour will respond. This will be a dirty election



DONALD MACINTYRE

If the Tories are yet to confound the dire predictions of defeat by pollsters and media chatter, and, privately, by quite a few politicians in their own ranks, then this summer will be seen as a turning point. First, because this may turn out to have been the moment when the Conservatives showed the first faint, flickering signs of a political recovery. And, second, because Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, took a gamble by launching a negative campaign against Labour some four months earlier than the party had originally planned, and against the advice of some - though not all - of his most senior outside advisers. If the Tories fail to win a fifth term, that decision will become, in the inevitable orgy of recrimination, just another excuse for the failure - whether it made any difference or not. But if they win, Dr Mawhinney will be carried shoulder-high in triumph through Smith Square for what will be seen as almost supernatural foresight.

First, the "recovery" - if that's what it is. Every hopeful sign for the Tories has to be prefaced by the proviso, boring to repeat, that the Tories are still in their longest, deepest political trough ever. The last public opinion poll, MORI for the *Times* last week, showed the Tories holding only half of the four-point improvement they made in June - almost certainly in part because England was doing well in Euro 96 when the fieldwork was done. And it left the Conservatives at 29 per cent and Labour at 53. Yesterday's superficially cheering survey, for James Capel, of 1,000 electors who voted Tory in 1992, was treated cautiously, even by Tory strategists. True, it shows 79 per cent of those who have made a clear decision would vote Tory again - a larger proportion than

at any time since April 1995. But even the James Capel figures point to a daunting 20 per cent or, if replicated nationally, some 2.8 million, who haven't "come home." If this is a recovery, it is painfully slow.

That doesn't mean that the omens are uniformly catastrophic for the Tories. Every Conservative expert, from Maurice Saatchi down, knows that one of the most worrying deficits for the Tories in this Parliament has been the failure of growing economic optimism to translate into political support for the Government. All the polling data suggests that it is a myth, though a persistent one, that electors are naturally more inclined to vote Labour when the economy is booming because they feel they can afford to do so. On the contrary, before each of the last three elections there was a close correlation between electors feeling better about their economic prospects and their desire to vote Conservative. This time that correlation has been missing - almost certainly because of the massive loss of trust in its capacity to manage the economy the Government suffered in the late summer and autumn of 1992, culminating in the humiliation of Black Wednesday. So it may be significant that for the first time since then, last week's MORI poll shows the Tories regaining their traditional, pre-1992 position ahead of Labour in the ratings on management of the economy. Secondly, Labour strategists admit that there has been a firming up of Tory support among 1992 Conservative voters who have flirted with not voting for another party but were - according to those same Labour strategists - never really likely to do so in a general election. As a direct result of this shift, the Tories are planning a new "I'm coming home" campaign in the regions. On his tours of the country, Tony Blair will continue to parade groups of disenchanted ex-Tories saying they will vote Labour. Now we can expect to see the Tories playing him at his own game, and showing off voters who were disaffected but have returned to the fold.

Thirdly, Michael Howard may be a mega-flop with the liberal intelligentsia, but he has wrestled back the



Go negative and go early: unveiling this sinister slogan four months early may prove to be a masterstroke from Brian Mawhinney

Photograph: Nicholas Tunpin

Tories' lead on law and order for the first time since May 1994.

These factors haven't yet significantly dented Labour's overall lead, but Tory election planners insist that they are the "building blocks" for doing so. It is too early to say whether Mawhinney's decision to unveil the "New Labour, New Danger" slogan has been a help. The Tories were always going to go negative, but the original plan had been to wait until September. Mawhinney overruled that for two reasons: first, to concentrate the minds of his internally warring party on the common enemy for a change, and second, because of a belief that Blair was being allowed to drive home his message that Labour was not a tax-and-spend party without facing any conspicuous challenge. The result was M and C Saatchi's blood-curdling party political broadcast insisting that Labour would put taxes up, and in an unmistakable lift from the US Republicans' notorious 1988 anti-Dukakis commercial, shamelessly implying that Labour would open the

jails to let violent criminals out. At least one ministerial adviser has complained that the broadcast gave his nine-year-old nephew nightmares. More to the point, the move prompted Peter Mandelson and his fellow Labour election-planners to raise an extra £500,000 and bring forward their own - and equally formidable - counter-campaign on the theme: "Same Old Tories, Same Old Lies."

It was some time before Mandelson was convinced that it was worth it; in campaigning lore you should try not to lead credibility to your opponents' campaign by explicitly attacking it. But the imperative of "rebuttal" won out. If the Tories have learnt from the Bush 1988 campaign - and some of the Republican failures of 1992 - then rebuttal is the lesson that Labour has learnt from the Clinton campaign. Gordon Brown and Mandelson - who held a special showing for his staff last week of *War Room*, a documentary on the Clinton campaign - held a press conference straight after the broadcast to challenge each of the claims made

in it. But they also decided that whatever the deficiencies of the Tory campaign, it was worth launching last week a full-scale "counter-negative" campaign which, like "New Labour, New Danger," will run off and on until the election.

In the dream scenario for the Tories, union strife and frayed unity in the Labour Party will narrow a poll lead which everyone anyway believes is wider than the actual margin between the two parties.

Go negative and go early: unveiling this sinister slogan four months early may prove to be a masterstroke from Brian Mawhinney

Photograph: Nicholas Tunpin

"The man is a national treasure" (What Doctors Don't Tell You) IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME? Helpful Advice From Dr Vernon Coleman

If you suffer from Irritable Bowel Syndrome you will know only too well how this painful disorder can ruin your life. I used to suffer terribly from IBS, and had all the usual symptoms (pain, wind etc) but conquered the problem using a simple, two-step control programme. Since then my symptoms have virtually disappeared and the quality of my life has improved beyond measure. Now you can share the information that gave me back a normal life. I have produced a book called "Relief from IBS" that explains the methods I used to solve my IBS problem. The advice is written in an easy-to-follow style and includes a series of simple, practical guidelines designed to help you deal with your IBS in the same way that I dealt with mine. The topics covered include:

- Causes and symptoms • How to look after your digestive system • Relief from wind • Tips on how to cope with stress • Foods that can make things worse

Having suffered from IBS for several years I know what a devastating effect it can have on your life and I do hope my book will be able to help you. You can try my advice without risk - if you don't find the book helpful then simply return it to me within 28 days of receipt for a full refund. As a bonus we will also send you a valuable FREE book worth £9.95 when you order. The contents of your free book include: "Should you get a second opinion?", "How to get the best out of your doctor", "How to cope in an emergency", "How to live to 100", "Improve your life by changing your diet", "How to protect yourself against viruses" and much, much more! To order your copy of my book *Relief from IBS* send a cheque or postal order (payable to Publishing House) for £9.95 to IBS Book Office, Sales Office IN38, Publishing House, Trinity Place, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 9HU. Post and packing is FREE! For credit card sales please ring (01271) 328892. Your book will be sent to you within 28 days. Reading this book could help solve your IBS problem for good - and remember, you have nothing to lose but your symptoms. Your free book is yours to keep whatever you decide.

"His advice is optimistic and enthusiastic" (The British Medical Journal)
"Dr Vernon Coleman is one of our most enlightened, trenchant and sensible dispensers of medical advice" (The Observer)

Published by the European Medical Journal

THE CENTRAL FACTS FROM THE COURSES YOU ALWAYS MEANT TO TAKE, IN 25 LECTURES

Empty space looks empty, but in extreme close-up it is writhing with immensely small fluctuations. Let one of those get caught, and pressure builds up. And builds up. And builds up some more. And then our universe starts exploding out.

It doesn't look like much of a universe at first. It is ridiculously small - able to float, if anyone could measure it, inside a thimble without touching the sides. There is no solid matter, no miniature palm trees waiting to be pumped up and sent out. Instead there are only dense streams of energy, occasionally coalescing into solid particles, but quickly being knocked apart as more energy crashes past.

Because our universe was moving so fast when it came into being, it quickly enlarged, and in doing, spreading more thinly, it naturally cooled down. Within a second it grew enough to swell for many miles, and within two minutes - though still scarily hot by our standards - the cores of the first ordinary atoms began to hold together.

Almost as soon as those atom constructions began, though, the continued expansion cooled everything even more; and by four minutes or so, this fast construction period was largely over. There

was energy, and there were the cores of hydrogen and helium, all moving very fast - but that was all.

It is tempting to think of this all spreading out from one point, some sort of gushing tap in the sky, which astronomers might one day locate, like the single vanishing point of Renaissance perspective. But the Big Bang is stranger than that. What was created, at the start, wasn't just the bits of matter that tumble forward through space, out of some suddenly created hole, but also the space itself in which they travel.

This really is odd. Distant galaxies speed away from us, but not because we were each shot out from the Big Bang in a different direction. Rather, the very space stretching between us is steadily opening up, in a rush left over from the initial blast. The concept made no sense before Einstein, as previous thinkers didn't see space as an active substance, capable of a greater or lesser tautening.

As space continued loosening, the first stars ignited, about one billion years after creation. The largest ones built up enormous solid iron cores, which ended up ripping the space at their centres into black holes, so sucking the main body of the star rather uselessly in behind. Less cor-



WEEK 1 DAY 2

Big Bang

VISITING LECTURER: David Bodanis

A final examination will be set at the end of term. All graduates will be awarded a diploma and the ten best results will receive a year's subscription to the *Independent*



pulent stars avoided that fate, and often conveniently burst apart outwards, sending the heavy elements that they had squeezed into existence drifting off through space, to end up where one minor planetary system was being formed.

Fast forward 4.5 billion years and the result, each morning, is mobile chunks of carbon atoms (that's us, folks) wading through clouds of star-created oxygen atoms, stirring a caffeine-dense liquid of Big Bang hydrogen atoms, as they read about how they came to exist.

It is a good story, and pleasingly well supported. Particles really have been seen to emerge spontaneously out of "empty" vacuum in the lab; the two-minute interval for the original construction of atom cores matches the amounts of helium left in the oldest stars; and star explosions that create further elements are so frequently photographed that you can call them up on the Web.

Another 30 billion years,

and the galaxies will have increasingly used up their fuel, the night sky everywhere becoming darker, and colder. The fabric of space will continue rushing outward, from the long distant Big Bang, carrying the rock fragments and dead stars ever farther apart in the swirling cold.

Pascal wrote about the terror one could feel, trapped in a universe of infinite silence, isolated from God. I don't know how much he was satisfied with the answers he struggled with, for the very question was only posed once science - by uncovering those vast spaces so exactly - had disturbed, perhaps forever, the religion he sought. But I do wonder what he would have made of the most recent view.

If our universe did begin from a tiny fluctuation in an apparent vacuum, our Big Bang didn't have to be the only one. Universes could be whizzing off from ours all the time, inflating at great velocity, albeit in dimensions we can't see. Ours, in turn, would just have spun off from one of the many universes existing before.

It is not what Pascal would have expected, yet if it is true, we are not alone at all, but rather surrounded, encased, by these infinite bubbles of existence.

Tomorrow, Evolution

SFA declares war on badly run companies

JOHN WILLCOCK

The Securities and Futures Authority plans to slash compliance costs and red tape for well-managed City firms and raise costs for poorly managed ones in a radical attempt to "prevent another Barings".

After an "annus horribilis" for the securities regulator which started with the collapse of Barings bank and ended with the Sumitomo copper scandal, the SFA chairman,

Nick Durlacher, said it was time to concentrate compliance resources where they were most needed.

The SFA is moving away from concentrating on which sectors are risky, and instead is looking at which firms handle risk well, and those that do not.

Mr Durlacher said: "We will look at the inherent quality of the firm rather than the type of business it does. SFA inspections for good firms will be far less frequent."

Unveiling the regulator's annual report for 1995/96, Mr Durlacher said poorly run firms would be penalised in a number of ways. If their systems for controlling counter-party risk, or credit for securities transactions, were found to be inadequate they would be forced to put aside more capital to safeguard such risks. This might even necessitate some firms seeking a capital injection, Mr Durlacher said.

This would have a big impact on security firms' costs, he added. Traditionally, capital cover for many securities transactions has been 100 per cent of the worth of the deal. This could be cut to as low as 8 per cent for well-managed firms.

In this "carrot-and-stick" approach, well-run firms will have red tape slashed. They will be required to make fewer exposure reports, which in derivatives can be time-consuming and expensive.

The SFA plans to impose extra training requirements where problems are greatest, reduce reporting burdens in some areas where a firm's systems and standards are proven, and scrap "unnecessarily burdensome" rules.

Mr Durlacher admitted the SFA had taken "a pounding" for its roles in Barings and Sumitomo, and that the regulator had ended the year 1995/96 "wiser".

The SFA chairman said that when the collapse of Barings "exploded on the scene" the

SFA immediately had to review its reporting procedures and make sure that co-operation with the bank of England was working properly, that "nothing was falling between the cracks".

The SFA's disciplinary investigation that followed into Barings had been "a very difficult process, very much in the public eye. We were not able to bring a case against Peter Barings [the former chairman of Barings] or Andrew Tuckey [another senior executive] be-

cause there was no evidence of wrongdoing. We were roundly attacked in the press for that."

In response, the SFA next week will start consulting its members over new powers which it proposes will allow it to prosecute or take other action against senior management for problems in their firms.

There was one silver lining to the year, Mr Durlacher added. The European Union's Investment Services Directive, which

provides firms with "passports" to do business in any EU nation, was implemented in the UK last January.

Half the EU countries had not implemented it yet, said Mr Durlacher, and Germany was not planning to do so until mid-1997.

The annual report said the SFA made a net deficit after tax of £891,000 for the year to March 31 due to the cost of systems redevelopment. **Comment, page 15**

Pearson nets £305m for Westminster

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Pearson, the media and entertainment giant, yesterday took the sting out of poor interim profits by unveiling the sale of its regional newspaper group, Westminster Press, for £305m - marginally ahead of City expectations.

The sale, to aggressive regional newspaper publisher Newsquest, marks a continuation of Pearson's move from "traditional to screen-based media," Lord Blakenham, chairman, said yesterday. The company also announced the purchase of another 30 per cent of Les Revoletos, the Spanish media concern, taking its share to 95 per cent at a cost of £86.8m.

But while media analysts cheered the deals, there was still disappointment over the company's continuing problems with its US CD-Rom subsidiary, Mindscape, and some concern about the ballooning costs associated with returning millions of VCRs to advance of the launch of Channel 5, in which Pearson has a 24 per cent stake.

Pre-tax profits slid 40 per cent in the first half of 1996, to just £30m from £50m last time, largely on the effects of the poor performance of Mindscape, which had been widely trailed. Underlying results were in line with most estimates, and the shares climbed 19p to 630p, as the market breathed a sigh of relief.

The education unit, which includes the newly purchased HarperCollins Educational

Publishing, posted seasonal losses, but was on track for a strong performance in the second half of the year. Pearson Television had a strong half, helped by sales by its Grundy Worldwide and Thames Television subsidiaries.

Penguin Books had a good half, particularly in the US. Pearson yesterday announced the appointment of Michael Lynton, former head of Hollywood Pictures, a Disney subsidiary, as chief executive of Penguin worldwide.

"This doesn't take the pressure off management," said one analyst. "In a way, it might have been better if the results had been terrible or very good."

Pearson's management has come under intense scrutiny in recent months, as the City awaits signs the conglomerate would seek to maximise shareholder value, perhaps by selling off the highly rated television arm.

Institutional shareholders have also been asking Pearson to confirm its plans following the planned retirement of managing director Frank Barlow.

Headhunters have been appointed, and they are looking at both internal and external candidates, Lord Blakenham confirmed yesterday.

The sale of Westminster Press generated a cash price equal to just over two times revenues - similar to recent deals in the sector. Pearson is to keep WP's 9 per cent stake in Press Association, as well as a £8m surplus in the pension fund.



Early birds: (from the left) Dick Munton of Cinven and Jim Brown and Alexander Navab of Newsquest

Photograph: Paul Bulley

Newsquest was hacked by KKR, the leveraged buy out specialists and Cinven, the media venture capital group.

Both finance companies said they would continue to look for opportunities in the regional newspaper market.

KKR, which hacked Newsquest's management-led buyout of Reed Regional Newspaper early this year,

said: "We see this business as highly cash generative, and we have a fabulous management team."

Jim Brown, Newsquest's chief executive, said he planned to keep all 60 Westminster Press titles, although some might require extra investment.

"Some are very modern, and others are rather long in the tooth. We'll take some time to sort them out." However, further acquisitions have not been ruled out.

Newsquest beat a competing offer from Mirror Group and Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers, which presented a sweetened bid of £310m over the weekend. This was to include the pension surplus and the PA shares, valued at £3.8m, meaning that the Newsquest offer was slightly higher.

Comment, page 15

Cost of Channel 5 retuning may top £100m

The budget for retuning video recorders for the new Channel 5 service could soar to as high as £100m, one of the channel's backers confirmed yesterday, writes *Matthew Horsman*, Pearson, which has a 24 per cent stake in the fifth terrestrial service, will capitalise its share of the £100m provision, and amortise it, the company's finance director, John Makinson said yesterday.

The figure is sharply higher than the £55m originally bud-

getted by Channel 5, in which United News & Media and CIT also have stakes.

It also emerged yesterday that Telewest Communications, the country's largest cable company, is days away from agreeing a special contract with Channel 5 to retune video recorders in its franchise areas. Such an arrangement could help cap Channel 5's retuning costs. Other cable operators have also held talks about offering retuning services.

The news coincided with the publication of Telewest's interim figures, which analysts said were a little below expectations. Revenue was up 59 per cent year on year in the first half, to £133.5m, including the results of the merger of Telewest and SBC CableComms last year.

Losses climbed to £117m, as the costs of network building continued to eat into revenues. The company said it was on schedule to go into positive operating cash flow this year.

The results were the first under the acting chief executive, Stephen Davidson, who took over from Alan Michels last week.

He is expected to be confirmed in the position by the end of the year, and is in line to see his salary increased "substantially" in two phases: an immediate increase to reflect his "acting CEO status" and a further, retroactive rise following confirmation of his position at the end of the year.

Economy: Slowdown provides Clarke with excuse to cut rates again as homeowners benefit from ongoing market revival

Industrial output falls sharply

350,000 escape from negative equity trap

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

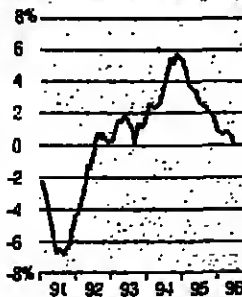
Industrial output fell by more in June than at any time since mid-1992, at the tail-end of the recession. The unexpected drop will give Kenneth Clarke the perfect excuse to cut interest rates again, City economists said yesterday, although few think the economy needs any further stimulus.

Indeed, separate figures showed a further increase in the growth of cash in circulation in July, confirming the surge in consumer spending.

The weak figures for both manufacturing output and total industrial production are puzzling in the light of the renewed optimism revealed by recent business surveys.

The Office for National Statistics said the trend in manufacturing was flat for the seventh month running in June.

STILL STRUGGLING



Source: ONS

Manufacturing output fell 0.3 per cent in the month and was unchanged in the three months to June against a year earlier. A sharp fall in energy production between the colder-than-average May and warmer-than-average June took total industrial output 1.1 per cent lower. It grew 1.1 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter.

Some analysts suggested that the gap between the disappointing output figures and recent buoyant survey results might be due to de-stocking.

James Barry, of the investment bank Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "If the drop in output is due to manufacturers getting excess stocks into line, that will be good news for the economy."

Kevin Darlington at Hoare Govett said the recent survey evidence of an upturn in industry was compelling. "All the surveys are pointing in the same direction. Manufacturing will not stagnate into the foreseeable future," he said.

This view was shared by the Treasury minister Angela Knight: "Although manufacturing was flat in the second quarter all the main surveys suggest that output has started to pick up."

The drop in June was spread across the board, although particularly pronounced in elec-

tricity and gas. However, official statisticians stressed the volatility of the monthly figures and emphasised the flat three-month picture.

Output of the petrol refining and nuclear fuels industry fell by nearly 10 per cent in the second quarter, and there were also small declines in basic metals and "other" manufacturing.

The strongest gains during the quarter were made in textiles, chemicals and food, drink and tobacco, which make up nearly one-third of the manufacturing total while the key engineering sector increased production by 0.4 per cent.

The buoyancy of the demand side of the economy was highlighted by separate figures from the Bank of England showing that the 12-month growth of notes and coins in circulation edged up to 7.1 per cent last month from an already robust 7 per cent in June.

Continuing evidence of a revival in the UK housing market came yesterday from a report showing that the number of homebuyers blighted by negative equity fell by almost 350,000 to 758,000 in the second quarter of 1996, writes *Nic Cunniff*.

The decline, the largest for more than three years, also marks the first time since late 1991 that the number of affected households has dropped below the million mark.

A further 1.9 million homeowners have insufficient equity - less than £5,000 of net equity in their property - to finance a move without also relying on separate savings.

The average shortfall in negative equity levels, where a mortgage is greater than the value of the property, also dropped by £200 to £4,200 compared with the first quarter of 1996.

media marketing sales

An 6 page section covering all the latest news for media, marketing and sales professionals with pages of new positions on offer

See pages 18 - 23 section two

To book your advertisement call James Cooper on 0171 293 2301

Every Tuesday in

THE INDEPENDENT

section two

STOCK MARKETS			
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)
FTSE 100	3786.30	+17.70	+0.5
FTSE 250	4289.40	+22.70	+0.5
FTSE 350	1895.10	+9.10	+0.5
FT Small Cap	2109.18	+6.08	+0.3
FT All Share	1872.28	+8.72	+0.5
New York	5689.09	+9.25	+0.2
Tokyo	21077.47	+137.06	+0.7
Hong Kong	11021.43	+109.46	+1.0
Frankfurt	2500.93	+12.28	+0.5

INTEREST RATES			
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month
UK	5.75	6.00	7.75
US	5.50	5.83	6.48
Japan	0.38	1.06	3.28
Germany	3.38	3.49	3.29

CURRENCIES			
Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
\$ (London)	1.5423	-1.49c	1.6033
\$ (NY)	1.5425	-1.45c	1.6015
DM (London)	2.2792	-1.53c	2.2522
¥ (London)	164.941	+1.293	146.099
£ Index	64.1	-0.6	64.5

OTHER INDICATORS			
Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
Oil Brent	19.92	+0.48	16.13
Gold \$	389.20	+2.75	384.20
Gold £	252.08	+1.52	240.13

Few clouds to darken BA horizon

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

The tiff between BA and its partner US-Air, which has taken umbrage at the British company's proposed alliance with American Airlines, has tended to distract from the fundamentals of a business that is enjoying a determined cyclical upswing. First-quarter figures from BA yesterday underlined the benevolent trading environment.

At £150m, pre-tax profits for the three months to June were 11.1 per cent higher than the £135m of a year ago and Sir Colin Marshall, who moved up to the chairmanship in January, predicted another record year for the industry on the way to peak earnings around the turn of the decade. Earnings per share increased 13.3 per cent to 1.9p.

The number of passengers carried increased fractionally on last year to 8.35 million and, boosted by the fact that on average passengers flew further, revenue passenger kilometres (the industry's volume measure) increased by 3.7 per cent. As there was a 5.9 per cent rise in capacity, however, that actually reduced slightly the percentage of seats sold.

That was the bad news. More encouraging was a 6.6 per cent increase in passenger yields, a more important measure, which reflected less aggressive discounting, some price increases on the back of improved services in first class and business cabins, stronger growth in premium-priced traffic and favourable exchange rates. In other words BA concentrated more on profitability than in getting turns on seats.

Cargo traffic remained a disappointment with more capacity in the market than world trade can justify and while carryings increased by 9 per cent, yields were 4.5 per cent lower.

As BA works towards its bold target of being "the best managed company in Britain" by the end of the decade, another slight concern was an 11 per cent jump in costs, hit by adverse currencies and higher fuel and staff costs. There is plainly plenty still to cut in BA, however, and the £1bn cited at the time of the last full-year figures is an indication of the scale of improvements available. BA has come a long way since privatisation in the mid-1980s but the dead hand of the state-run airline has not been completely shaken off.

Valuing BA is complicated by its cyclical, which means a reasonable discount must be applied to the company's peak earnings, and by the fact that there is no sector with which to compare it in the UK. But on the basis of forecast profits of £576m to next March, followed by £791m and then £879m close to the peak in the cycle, a prospective P/E ratio of 11.3, falling to 10 and then 8.8, does not seem too demanding. That is especially so with the prospect of a profits boost from the AA alliance

which BA would not have contemplated without the potential for big gains in efficiency and passenger volumes. There is little of that in the price and the shares have not peaked yet.

A lot to trust at Filtronic

Filtronic Comtek has only been on the stockmarket since October 1994 but shareholders have had more excitement in that time than most companies provide in a decade or so. Floated at 105p, the shares rose in a more or less straight line to peak at 507p almost a year to the day after first dealings. They closed yesterday at 196p.

Put another way the company's market value has swung from an opening value of just £43m to a peak value of £218m and back down again to £83m yesterday. That sort of roller coaster ride could only be achieved at the high tech end of the electronics industry so it will come as no surprise that Filtronic's products are black boxes in mobile phone base stations that it would take several PhDs to fully understand.

The fact that no investors really understand the product is, of course, the root of the problem with the shares. That and the high expectations which are engendered by a company operating in one of the truly great growth markets of the back end of the century - mobile telephony.

It is estimated that there will be more than 400 million mobile subscribers by the year 2001 compared with 87 million at the end of last year. With Filtronic claiming to have little competition in Europe for its transmission and receiver devices, that is plainly a mouthwatering prospect for a small company.

The problem is that translating the company's technical expertise into sales and profits is proving slower than first hoped for. And because Filtronic prudently writes off its research and development expenditure as it goes along, profits can be extremely volatile. Last year, reported pre-tax profits of £3.25m (£3.38m) were struck after writing off slightly more than that in R&D.

That would not have hit the bottom line so hard if big customers had not deferred orders in the US, effectively putting back the roll-out of Filtronic's

American business by almost a year. While the company says it is only a temporary blip, the market is rightly loathe to attach a premium rating to a company that has disappointed so soon into its quoted life.

Even on the basis of house broker Pamure Gordon's forecast of £5m profits in the year to next May and £9.8m next time, the shares, down a further 31p yesterday, trade on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 25, falling to 12.5. With no yield support, even after a 61 per cent fall from the peak, there's still a lot taken on trust.

Polly's demotion clips Bluebird

Bluebird Toys has been one of the toy industry's high-flyers in recent years but after the shares hit 375p last November the company has had its wings clipped severely. The shares fell a further 17 per cent to 176p yesterday on lower interim profits and a warning on the second half.

Profits in the six months to June were down more than half to £3.1m (£7.6m) on sales down more than a third to £23.5m. Sales and profits will also be affected in the second half for three main reasons. One is that Bluebird's boys' toy, Mighty Max, has been withdrawn after a long run, slicing £7m off sales. The second is a downturn in the UK and US toy markets which have slumped by 5 per cent year-on-year.

The final reason is that retailers have been de-stocking, particularly Bluebird's star product, Polly Pocket, the girls' range of collectibles.

The key here is whether Polly's sales bounce back. Bluebird has made much of the toy's resilience, saying it has the potential for long-term growth of a Sindy or Barbie and is not a two- or three-year fad. But copy-cat versions (such as Pony in My Pocket) are already grabbing retailers' shelf space.

The story is not completely bleak. New products such as the Batman and Disney miniatures only came on stream at the end of the first half. Other new launches such as Spiderman and Space Monkeys are due in the fourth quarter. But these toys are owned by other companies such as Disney and Marvel Comics. If Polly's growth is stalling it will make a bid by Mattel or Hasbro, which holds a small stake, less likely.

This would remove another reason for holding the shares. With analysts forecasting full-year profits of £1.1m for the current year, against previous estimates of £1.6m, the shares are on a forward rating of 11. They look vulnerable.

Lunchtime salute rattles the corridors of the SFA

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK



Blame the part-timers: Salutes are timed to fit in with lunch

It's not often that cannon fire interrupts a City lunch. But yesterday, Nick Durlacher of the SFA was just sitting down to sandwiches when the windows of his new Hays Galleria offices overlooking the Thames rattled with a multi-gun salute from the Tower of London. In honour of the Queen Mother's 96th birthday the day before.

It turns out that gun salutes from the Tower have to be on weekdays, since the The Honourable Artillery Company, which fires the cannon, are part-time volunteers, most of whom work in the City. This also means the guns are fired at 1pm rather than noon, to fit in with the gunners' lunches.

The SFA chief was just singing the praises of his new offices, which have "the best view in the City, overlooking HMS Belfast", when the first shot rang out.

The regulators moved in two months ago when Lloyds Bank vacated, Richard Farran, SFA chief executive, who joined the briefing, added that Lloyds had "left some of their furniture behind - in fact we had lunch sitting on their chairs". Now that's what I call cost savings.

Sir William Purves, four group chairman of mighty HSBC Holdings, took time off from answering how his bank made half-year profits of over £2.3bn to parry a more personal query. "December 27th is an important date for you, isn't it?"

Sir Willie agreed. It's his 65th

Most politicians in the US would give an arm and a leg to appear on the top-rated *Larry King Live*, a chat show discussing topics of the moment. And Richard Everett, director of group strategy and compliance at BAA, must be the only man ever to have turned down an invitation to appear. Mr Everett was in Washington giving evidence to the Senate committee investigating airport safety after the TWA disaster. According to BAA sources, he told the television people they must be joking - he was not prepared to be a punch bag of by a seasoned operator like Mr King. If only more politicians were like Mr Everett.

birthday. "Since it comes after Christmas my family don't notice it any more."

When asked when he will retire from HSBC, which he joined in 1954, he replied: "When the Board decides it is time for me to go, I will with great alacrity."

But who would dare?

John Mankinson, finance director of Pearson, did well in his first time out presenting the group's accounts. Until, that is, towards the end, when one analyst asked where the back office cost allocations had disappeared to between 1995's figures and those presented yesterday.

Mr Mankinson searched his pile of papers to no avail, until he was joined by one, then a whole mob of analysts, seeking the elusive answer. Finally, as the meeting descended into

chaos, the financial controller was sent for, the figure found, and honour restored.

No doubt Mr Mankinson will have learnt a valuable lesson - keep it simple.

Grand Prix ace Nigel Mansell is facing allegations of insider share dealing in a case pending in the High Courts.

According to the *Lawyer* magazine, Mr Mansell and his wife, Rosamund, are suing for the return of cash they allege they paid to a golfing friend, Anthony Collier, in a share deal. Their suit claims that Collier used the money as a deposit on a £550,000 farm and to pay off debts. Collier has since committed suicide.

The case started at the High Court last month when Mr Mansell sought an *ex parte* freezing order to protect the money he claims he is owed. At the hearing, however, Mark Howard QC opposed the freezing order, saying that Mr Mansell had been persuaded to hand over the money for shares in a New York hi-tech computer company which was about to be floated. The judge turned down the freezing order, and the allegations will be decided upon in the upcoming trial.

Tied houses face legal challenge from Europe



Peter Jarvis: Whitbread says it's the consumers' choice

The European Commission yesterday threatened to take Britain to the European Court of Justice over restrictions on sales of foreign beer in pubs.

In a new sign of its reservations about Britain's unique system of tied houses - exclusive distribution arrangements between brewers and public houses - the Commission said the restrictions constituted an illegal trade barrier under the EU treaty.

The Commission was taking issue with the 1989 Beer Orders, which says operators of 10,000 pubs leased from Britain's four biggest brewers may sell beers other than those produced by the brewery to which they are

tied only where those "guest" beers are brewed to specific British requirements.

"This rule is discriminatory because it has the effect of excluding draught beers from other member states and, as such, constitutes a disguised restriction of intra-Community trade," the Commission said in a statement.

"The Commission's action is therefore aimed at securing the removal of this discrimination, which is not justified on consumer protection grounds and is fragmenting the single market." It has given the British government 40 days to respond.

The British brewing industry is currently lobbying strongly to

keep the tied-houses system outside the scope of the EU's competition rules. A current exemption expires at the end of 1997 and British brewers are lobbying for it to be extended by another 15 years at least.

The British brewers say the system allows small breweries to compete with larger companies and benefits retailers and consumers. But the Commission argues that the rules effectively prevent non-British beers from gaining a guest spot in pubs leased by the UK brewers Scottish & Newcastle, Bass, Carlsberg-Tetley and Whitbread, led by Peter Jarvis. The four dominate the £13.8bn UK market and own almost half of the pubs

which are "tied" by contracts to brewers.

The brewers have also forged licensing agreements with non-British brewers to distribute foreign brands through their pubs and in retail outlets. Whitbread, for example, produces Dutch Heineken and Belgian Stella Artois, while Scottish & Newcastle sells Germany's Beck's.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Trade and Industry said the Government has yet to receive a letter from the Commission, but will "consider it and respond" when it does.

The Brewers & Licensed Retailers Association, the trade group for UK brewers and pub owners, rejected the Commis-

sion's attempt to allow other EU brewers to sell beer to tied pubs under the guest ale policy. "Ultimately it will lead to less choice in pubs," said Brian Finemery, spokesman for the BLRA, claiming that it would lead to bigger lager brands crowding out the smaller regional ales.

"It's outrageous," said Mike Banner, spokesman for the Campaign for Real Ale, whose small brewer members benefit from the provision. "It's total European interference in what is an internal matter pure and simple."

A Whitbread spokeswoman said even if the rules were changed, its leased pubs would be guided by consumer demand.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
African Lakes Corp (F)	12.0m (10.8m)	-0.40m (-0.64m)	-7p (-11.27p)	nil (-)
BA (R)	- (-)	150m (135m)	11.1p (10.5p)	nil (-)
Bluebird Toys (I)	23.5m (39.0m)	3.1m (7.57m)	4.5p (11.9p)	2.25p (2.25p)
Filtronic Comtek (F)	33.5m (25.7m)	3.25m (2.28m)	5.50p (3.36p)	1.0p (0.75p)
HSBC Holdings (I)	- (-)	2.32m (1.74m)	15p (8.5p)	15.0p (8.25p)
McKay Securities (F)	- (-)	2.4m (2.95m)	8.7p (8.1p)	5.5p (5.2p)
Pearson (I)	940m (811m)	30.2m (30.5m)	2.8p (8.4p)	6.3p (6.25p)
PST (F)	- (-)	18.0m (14.4m)	11.1p (8.99p)	6p (5.75p)
Versus (F)	107m (105m)	-4.87m (-11.3m)	-2.9p (-7.9p)	nil (nil)
Zetelmann (I)	10.3m (12.1m)	3.1m (3.5m)	5.8p (6.4p)	2.0p (1.8p)
Cardinal (I)	1.77m (1.65m)	0.40m (0.22m)	2.87p (1.54p)	nil (nil)
Chenille Group (I)	123m (87.4m)	2.61m (2.00m)	7.3p (6.0p)	1.5p (1.2p)
GIT Group (F)	103m (72.0m)	6.52m (5.97m)	7.80p (6.80p)	4.1p (2.75p)
Jacqueline Vert (F)	42.7m (49.7m)	-5.04m (-1.2m)	-41.2p (22.1p)	nil (-)
Romax (I)	14.5m (14.2m)	0.09m (1.45m)	0.06p (2.40p)	0.25p (0.25p)

(F) - Fast (I) - Interim (Q) - Quarter

OFFICIAL

UCAS

LISTINGS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR A-LEVEL STUDENTS

If you are thinking of moving on to higher education, look no further than *The Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday* to help you find the ideal course.

Starting this month, we will be publishing the complete official UCAS listings of available course places at universities and colleges throughout Britain.

On 15 August look out for *Which Way?* our free supplement designed to help you decide what to do next. Whether you are moving on to higher education, re-taking your A-levels or thinking of taking a year out, we will tell you everything you need to know about how to get ahead.

And from the 19 August, we will be featuring 11 more supplements, over 200 pages in total, listing all the university and college course vacancies available through clearing, provided to us by UCAS themselves.

You won't find the official UCAS listings in any other newspaper.

INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY

THE INDEPENDENT

WARNING - BEWARE OF IMITATIONS

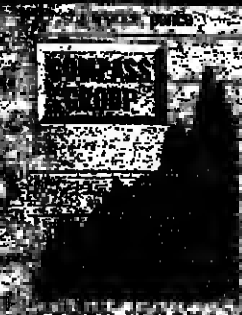
market report/shares

TAKING STOCK

DATA BANK

FTSE 100
3883.3 +17.7
FTSE 250
2884.4 +22.7
FTSE 350
3395.1 +9.1
SEAO VOLUME
1.0bn shares
33,990 bargains
Dixie Index
93.35 +0.02

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Blue chips boost market cheered by interest rate news

The stock market's rehabilitation continued with the FTSE 100 index posting a 17.7 point gain, making a 119 plus in the past four trading sessions. Yesterday's advance had to accommodate dividend payments wiping 8.8 points from Footsie.

Hopes US rates will not be forced higher and the Chancellor will be able to squeeze another base rate reduction provided much of the inspiration.

And major company results were better than expected. HSBC headed the blue-chip performance table with a 48p gain to 1,164p and Pearson achieved a 19p lift to 630p.

In such a relaxed atmosphere it was not difficult to get a takeover story circulating. Zeneca was entangled yet again. Talk of a SmithKline Beecham strike pushed the shares 32p higher in office



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

with talk of a 500p-plus bid in the offing.

Second liners had to contend with a run of disappointing statements. Filtronic, once 507p, tumbled 49p to 196p as US problems cut into profits; Zetec, a chemical group, produced another profit warning, falling 41p to 199p and Blackbird, the toys group, lost 33p to 176p as first half profits halved.

Compass, the catering group, slipped to 555p; NatWest Securities take the view the shares are too high and has moved its stance from hold to sell.

Other caterers were still on investment menus following

Whitbread's generous valuation of the Pelican restaurant chain. Family-controlled Aberdeen Steak Houses, despite saying it was baffled by its share strength, gained 32p to 70p and PizzaExpress gained 11p to 433p. Meanwhile Whitbread, little changed at 683p, lifted its Pelican stake to 6.4 per cent, buying 850,000 shares at 168p.

Grosvenor Inns was unchanged at 227p as Greig Middleton took a cautious stance. It said the company's record "is poor given the capital raised" and the shares did not merit the sort of rating accorded other managed pub groups.

Essex, the furniture group which has slumped from more

than 100p at the start of June, rose 7p to 69p as it said it could not account for the price slide.

Hunting, which has crashed from 231p since April, added 9p to 120p. The shares yield 11.3 per cent. The aviation and oil group, suffered a sharp reverse in its first half-year and the dividend is likely to be cut. Cray Electronics, down to 27p last month, was another to modestly recharged its batteries, up 5.5p to 35.5p.

Costain, the struggling civil engineer, rose 4p to 68p as Kharafi & Sons, the Kuwaiti builder which opposed the recent £74m rescue reconstruction, picked up 1.25 million shares, taking its stake to 25.2 per cent. Last week Kharafi acquired a 5.5 per cent interest.

Fair Andean Resources, seeking oil in Bolivia, gained 10p to 108p peak. The company refused to comment but there is market talk of a bullish statement soon. It will

among other things, give the date when BHP, the Australian giant working with PAR, will start drilling. It is unlikely BHP would drill unless it was confident of a rich strike.

Waterfall, the nightclub and snooker group, rose 4p to 52p. Stockbroker Butterfield see profits of £600,000 this year and £1.6m next and suggest the shares should be 60p.

London Fiduciary Trust, changing its name to Philippine Gold, is consolidating its shares, trading at around 4.5p, ready for a US listing. It raised £15.5m from an institutional placing.

The company, headed by former test cricketer Phil Edmonds, plans to lift its gold production to 155,000 ounces by the end of the year.

Self Sealing Systems, sold to investors at 54p, fell 10p to 25p as it warned of start up problems with its balloon processing machines.

Emerald Energy held at 2p. Dr Keith Hewitt, formerly Texaco's man in Colombia, has acquired a 7.5 per cent interest and joined the board. The company is known to be near to clinching deals in Colombia and is expected to give details later this month. Dr Hewitt is consultant to an off shoot of Seven Seas Petroleum which has a Colombian well with an oil flow of 3,400 barrels a day and could produce much more.

Italbex, an aerosol group which crashed into administrative receivership seven years ago, arrived on Oxfex. The shares traded at 0.75p. Happy Hotels also made its Oxfex debut at 8p.

Odd goings on at Just, a merchandising group. A deal in 666.9 million shares was printed. The price held at 4.25p.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The profit/loss (P/L) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: Ex rights 1 Ex-dividend 2 Ex-ad 3 Unlisted Securities Market 4 Suspended 5 Partly Paid 6 Nil Paid Shares 7 AM Stock Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seag. Simply dial 0891 223 333, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 223 333 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FTSE 100 - Real-time	00	Starting Rates	05
UK Stock Market Report	01	UK Company News	20
UK Company News	02	Wall St Report	21
Foreign Exchange	03	Tokyo Market	22

Anyone with a time-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 223 333. For assistance, call our helpline 071 673 4373 (9.30am - 5.30pm).

Costs start at 20p per minute (cheap rates), and 40p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
BT	150000	British Gas	100000	British Telecom	100000
British Airways	100000	British Petroleum	100000	British Airways	100000
British Airways	100000	British Petroleum	100000	British Airways	100000
British Airways	100000	British Petroleum	100000	British Airways	100000
British Airways	100000	British Petroleum	100000	British Airways	100000

FTSE 100 index hour by hour

Open 3777.2 up 12	11.00 3785.4 up 14.8	14.00 3785.5 up 14.9
09.00 3778.9 up 17	12.00 3787.7 up 16.1	15.00 3786.6 up 15.0
10.00 3785.4 up 17.3	13.00 3787.7 up 17.1	Close 3783.3 up 17.7

THE INDEPENDENT

Win Paint Your Wagon Tickets

Win the chance to see Paint Your Wagon at the Open Air Theatre in Regents Park on August 17th, courtesy of Entenmann's, the taste of American baking at its best. The thigh-slapping US gold mining adventure has been vividly brought to life by the cast. We've got 50 pairs of tickets to give away. Plus there are 50 luxury Optima Hampers to be won. A further 50 readers will receive an

Entenmann's voucher redeemable against a delicious cake. To enter, simply dial the number below, answer the two questions on line and leave your details. So call:

0891 111 511

Calls cost 20p/min. cheap rates, 40p/min at other times. Winner called at random after lines close 10th August. 08. Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editors decision is final.

Alcoholic Beverages	Banking	Chemicals	Construction	Electronics	Engineering	Food	Health	Insurance	Investment	Media	Oil	Pharmaceuticals	Real Estate	Retail	Services	Transport	Utilities	Waste
Alcoholic Beverages	Banking	Chemicals	Construction	Electronics	Engineering	Food	Health	Insurance	Investment	Media	Oil	Pharmaceuticals	Real Estate	Retail	Services	Transport	Utilities	Waste
Alcoholic Beverages	Banking	Chemicals	Construction	Electronics	Engineering	Food	Health	Insurance	Investment	Media	Oil	Pharmaceuticals	Real Estate	Retail	Services	Transport	Utilities	Waste

Government Securities	Index-linked	Short	Long
Government Securities	Index-linked	Short	Long
Government Securities	Index-linked	Short	Long

Share Price Data	Share Price Data	Share Price Data	Share Price Data
Share Price Data	Share Price Data	Share Price Data	Share Price Data
Share Price Data	Share Price Data	Share Price Data	Share Price Data

business

Why do we sell out when they keep it in the family?

Are families good for business? One of the clear distinctions between the UK system of company organisation and that of continental countries is the preservation of family control on the continent, by contrast to the sell-out mentality of Britain's owners. It is a distinction as marked as the noted distinction between bank finance and stockmarket finance but one which has attracted much less attention.

There is, on the surface, an obvious link between the two. The availability of stockmarket finance would seem to make it easier for UK entrepreneurs to sell their businesses. But as a new study* sponsored by 3i UK and the continent have more to do with cultural attitudes and different continental countries themselves show very different results.

The issue is important for two reasons. First, 85 per cent of small and medium-sized businesses in Europe are family firms. Second, small and medium-sized businesses are increasingly going to become the principal private sector employers as their bigger siblings downsize. So ensuring that the succession passes in an efficient way — one which enhances rather than diminishes the business — is enormously important for our future prosperity.

Some results of this study are summarised in the three graphs. British owner-managers are the least inclined to establish family dynasties; as the graph on the left shows, only 23 per cent have inherited the business. Germany is at the other extreme, with 57 per cent of owners inheriting. Along with the French, British owner-managers are the least likely to transfer their business within the family (centre graph). If and when they do sell,

ECONOMIC VIEW
HAMISH MCRAE

The British cite most often the desire to realise a capital gain and the need to get new management into the company. The French and Germans, by contrast, stress the more negative reason of "not able to pass on within family". The oft-made point that British companies need to sell to raise finance is not supported by this survey. They seem less likely to need to sell for this reason than companies in France, Germany or Italy.

What should we conclude from all this? The fact that there is, in the UK,

What role does tax play in the desire of the British to extract their cash?

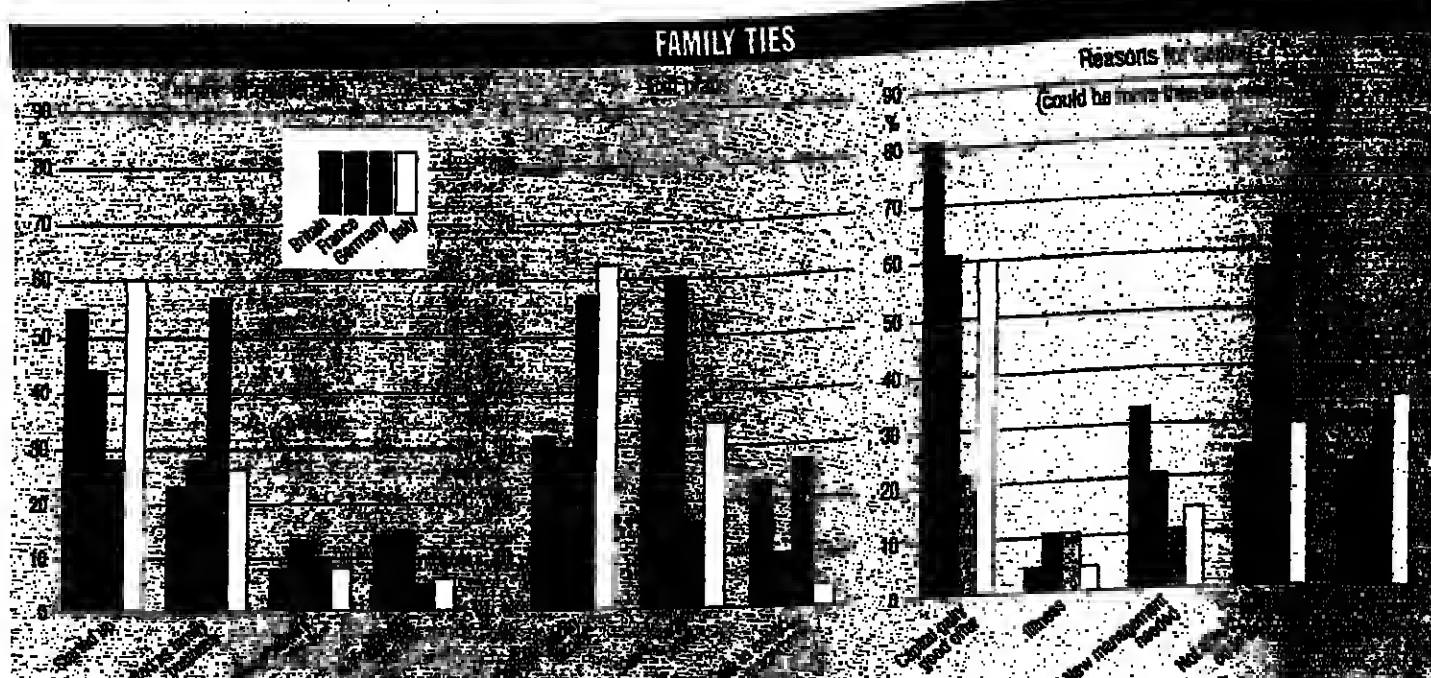
a particularly active capital market, does not seem to loom large. Differences seem to be culture-driven, not institution-driven. This raises more questions than it answers. Why are the cultures different, and why does this have implications for economic performance? It would be fascinating to know to what extent taxation plays a role in the desire of the British to extract their cash. Not just the extent to which British owner-managers who have sold out transfer their money offshore to avoid UK taxation, but also the extent to which the German

tax system makes it possible to pass on businesses to children whereas the British does not.

Go back a couple of generations and the British established and carried on family firms, but post-war taxation made this at best an inefficient and at worst an impossible way of passing on wealth. By contrast, German taxation made passing ownership of a business more tax-efficient than passing on securities. What we call cultural behaviour may not really be culture at all, but a rational response to financial stimuli.

Much has been made of the strength of the middle-sized German and Italian companies, most of which are family-owned, and which are often credited with the strength of the German and Italian recovery since the second world war. There is surely something in this: the stimulus to the economy from the trauma of defeat, and the fact that conventional careers in large companies were not open to a generation of would-be managers.

The experience of Britain in the 1980s may mirror that of Germany and France after the war. Britain's economic failure in the 1970s and the upheavals of the 1980s were of course utterly different to the struggles of post-war Germany and Italy. But we do know that there was a surge in new business creation in Britain in the 1980s: at one stage we were creating more new businesses than the rest of Europe put together.



Some work by Jane Black of University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and David de Meza of Exeter University (published in a recent issue of the *Economic Journal*) suggests that the business start-ups in the UK are stimulated by two things: unemployment and rising house prices.

For every 10 per cent increase in unemployment there was a 4 per cent rise in VAT registrations, and for every 10 per cent rise in housing equity there was a 5 per cent rise in VAT registrations. It seems that rising unemployment encourages new business start-ups, while rising house prices enables people to finance them.

My guess is that these businesses will, in time, contribute as much to the UK economy as the family-owned businesses have contributed to the German and the Italian. (The French structure seems something of a half-way house between the UK and the German/Italian, to judge by the responses to the survey.)

But what might this mean for Germany and Italy, where people who created the raft of post-war start-ups are now reaching retirement age? There is a problem of inter-generational transfer on a much larger scale than in the UK. Not only are the creators retiring, but whereas in the UK the chances are that they have sold

out and have therefore passed the business on to some other form of corporate ownership, on the continent they are more likely to have passed it on in the family.

There is no obvious answer. On the one hand family businesses probably have a stability and maybe a long-term attitude which shareholder-owned businesses do not. On the other hand heredity is an uneven method of selecting top management, and if institutional shareholders have control of a company they are likely to act with swift ferocity if nepotism is thought to have failed and an exit route appears. Think of Forté.

I suspect that the most important

transition the German and the northern Italian economies face is not reworking their social welfare systems, but rather managing the succession of the family-owned companies which have generated most of their wealth. As for Britain, with its unsentimental attitude to family business, this is not at the moment a major problem. Maybe in another 30 years, when the present crop of new businesses are due to be passed out, it will become a concern. But then a bridge to be crossed when we reach it and not before.

*Family Ties, by Paul Evans and Owen Whitehouse, 3i European Enterprise Centre.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Market	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	154.98	7.5	10.7	1000	0.679	0.679	0.679
Canada	22.22	11.3	10.7	137.6	2.1	2.0	0.920
Germany	22.89	48.4	140.30	148.5	25.26	84.81	10000
France	27.75	132.1	385.34	503.05	73.66	217.307	34000
Italy	29.07	132.1	442.18	581.1	44.81	232.23	122349
Japan	164.53	75.0	225.33	45.44	0.64	0.64	718.61
ECU	12.79	25.1	45.40	126.78	7.4	0.52	0.52
Belgium	42.31	27.2	32.25	30.827	6.5	16.16	20.682
Denmark	8.98	19.16	446.23	57.20	85.85	270.22	338.48
Netherlands	23.65	69.57	171.74	150.14	35.32	107.102	12.87
Ireland	0.098	7.3	20.47	4.7	0.7	1.00	0.98
Norway	9.79	120.50	310.20	43.90	42.17	10.40	0.98
Spain	19.40	21.31	69.86	125.97	23.27	64.72	65.0435
Sweden	10.24	0.4	1.0	4.6932	3.22	40.11	0.98
Switzerland	1.957	64.46	85.32	12.00	37.34	13.07	0.87
Australia	1.072	28.31	67.49	12.05	18.21	54.55	0.87
Hong Kong	1.1943	10.61	22.10	72.25	2.32	9.35	0.87
Malaysia	3.876	0.0	0.0	24.822	4.44	60.80	1.824
New Zealand	2.297	43.57	146.35	30.32	36.90	0.980	0.980
Saudi Arabia	5.7904	0.0	0.0	37.005	2.7	9.14	2.538
Singapore	2.862	0.0	0.0	14.80	41.30	103.58	0.989

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	Dollar	Country	Spot	Dollar
Argentina	15.424	0.987	Nigeria	125.06	0.10000
Austria	16.944	10.454	Oman	0.946	0.2850
Brazil	15.988	10.354	Pakistan	54.633	0.25394
Canada	12.543	0.679	Philippines	40.506	0.25394
Egypt	5.2554	3.4051	Portugal	234.581	0.25394
Finland	6.9483	4.090	Russia	5.8195	0.25394
Ghana	25.883	16.700	South Africa	8.8957	0.44590
Greece	35.893	23.780	Taiwan	42.772	0.25394
India	54.893	35.500	Thailand	42.772	0.25394
Kuwait	0.4624	1.2944	Japan	126.78	0.3751

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount; rates quoted low to high are at a premium.

*Dollars quoted as reciprocals.

For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 303 303.

Cable cost 50p per minute (cheap rate) 48p after hours.

Interest Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan
Base 5.75%	Discount 2.50%	Discount 5.00%	Discount 0.50%
Prime 10.00%	Discount 2.50%	Discount 5.00%	Discount 0.50%
France 3.50%	Canada 7.00%	Spain 7.00%	Switzerland 3.00%
Italy 8.25%	Denmark 5.00%	10-Day Repo 7.25%	Switzerland 3.00%
Netherlands 2.00%	Discount 3.25%	Repo (Avg) 5.80%	London 4.25%

Bond Yields

UK	Germany	US	Japan
10% 7.21	10% 7.21	10% 7.21	10% 7.21
5% 6.74	5% 6.74	5% 6.74	5% 6.74
3% 6.27	3% 6.27	3% 6.27	3% 6.27
1% 5.80	1% 5.80	1% 5.80	1% 5.80

Money Market Rates

Overnight	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
2.5%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%

Tourist Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan
15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00

Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement price	High/Low	Open interest
Long Gilt (Sep 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Gilt (Sep 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Gilt (Dec 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Gilt (Dec 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00

Life FT-SE Index Option

Settlement price 3787.00	Settlement price 3787.00
Settlement price 3787.00	Settlement price 3787.00
Settlement price 3787.00	Settlement price 3787.00
Settlement price 3787.00	Settlement price 3787.00

Energy

Contract	Settlement price	High/Low	Open interest
Long Oil (Sep 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Oil (Sep 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Oil (Dec 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Oil (Dec 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00

Commodity Indices

Index	Settlement price	High/Low	Open interest
Long Gold (Sep 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Gold (Sep 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Gold (Dec 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Gold (Dec 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00

GSCI Indices

Index	Settlement price	High/Low	Open interest
Long GSCI (Sep 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short GSCI (Sep 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long GSCI (Dec 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short GSCI (Dec 96)	100.00	100.00	100.00

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	100.00
Unit Trust 3	100.00	Unit Trust 4	100.00
Unit Trust 5	100.00	Unit Trust 6	100.00

Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
Unit Trust 1	100.00	Unit Trust 2	10

sport

Ideals left behind in the Atlanta gold rush



When bringing Atlanta 1996 to a close, the International Olympic Committee president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, discreetly avoided a line he has grown accustomed to delivering. Not since the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville went close to an operational disaster would the words "best ever" have sounded less appropriate. In describing the Games as "exceptional" Samaranch put a curse on Atlanta's effort. Records were set, most thrillingly by Michael Johnson and Donovan Bailey; packed venues, greater numbers of athletes and spectators than ever before; Southern hospitality; the unfailing patience of harassed volunteers.

But despite the relentlessly upbeat claims of its president, Billy Payne - "the success of these Games is how the athletes and the community feel about them" - the Atlanta organising committee was not up to staging an event that has ballooned to ludicrous proportions. Everything becomes clearer in hindsight, but Atlanta will go down in the history of the Summer Games as a city that failed to produce an enlightened strategy. The city of Coca-Cola, CNN and baseball's world champion Braves, claiming to be the new gateway of US commerce, simply was not big enough or experienced enough. Payne brushed at criticism from IOC members and the media. However, it was soon obvious that a warning issued last year - "it isn't going to work" - Acog were

informed by event consultants - had fallen on deaf ears. Traffic ground to a standstill; athletes and around 5,000 media representatives raged at mounting difficulties in transportation; information services broke down causing the giant IBM corporation acute embarrassment. The inevitable comparisons with Barcelona in 1992 and Seoul four years earlier were constantly damning. In one important respect Payne got away with it. Having persuaded the IOC to accept an average July temperature in Atlanta of 78°F he was blessed with cooler conditions than he and many competitors feared. The threat of dehydration did not materialise. The Summer Games leads normally sensible people to suspend conservative thinking



Ken Jones, at his last Olympics, blames the IOC for logistical failures at a ludicrously bloated Games

on infrastructure and allow the raising of facilities they can hardly afford. Barcelona's triumph stemmed partly from municipal input that enabled the construction of a strategic highway that left the city's historic centre untouched. Campaigning on a "good for business ticket", Acog instead sought and gained the support of local corporate entrepreneurs. As one stern critic put it, what resulted was gold rush fever. Prices soared in a glut of profiteering, a giant Coca-Cola bottle symbolised rampant

commercialism; streets within the city's Olympic circle, created partly by the bulldozing of a black neighbourhood, were given a county-fair atmosphere by tatty vending outlets. Then came the crude bomb placed in Centennial Park that left Atlanta horror struck, taking the life of a woman and injuring many others. What has to be addressed is the IOC's role in all this. In allowing the Games to become cluttered with sports that would, more or less, pass unnoticed in normal circumstances it has cheapened the Olympic ethos.

Neither do we know how determined the IOC is to stamp out chemically assisted performance. At a press conference held in London shortly before the Games, Samaranch declared himself in ignorance of an underground pamphlet setting out infallible masking procedures that was available to athletes in Barcelona. Rumours of a "big catch" in Atlanta came to nothing but as Charles E. Yesalis, who is professor of health and human development at Pennsylvania University, told the *New York Times*, expenditure of \$2m (£1.3m) on drug detection announced by the IOC earlier this year is a small commitment from an organisation that runs a billion-dollar business. "If the IOC is serious about the problem, it would spend much

more on research, so that substances like human growth hormone (used to augment strength) could also be detected," he said. According to Yesalis, new hi-tech testing equipment is worthless in many cases. Synthetic testosterone, he says, can be delivered via barely detectable creams and skin patches. Creatine, which replenishes energy stores in muscles, is not even banned because it is found in food, but to equal the usual dose an athlete would have to eat 20 pounds of meat daily. "If the IOC can't do better than this, all we will see is another failed solution," Yesalis added. On one point at least everyone can agree. Atlanta was not without thrills. Johnson's unique double with a world record in the 200 metres. Carl Lewis's re-

markable Olympic career ended with a fourth consecutive gold in the long jump. An athletic beyond comparison in his spheres. A few hours before the closing ceremony, Johnson and the Olympic decathlon champion, Dan O'Brien visited Muhammad Ali at a hotel in Atlanta. The sight of a sadly stricken Ali trembling as he ignited the Olympic flame two weeks ago troubled some of us deeply. A symbol of sporting greatness nevertheless. O'Brien's eyes were filled with admiration for the man who was his boyhood hero. Ali spoke just one word, "Agg," he mumbled. Life's reality. Personally speaking, Atlanta was my last Olympics. All things considered, in the context of past experiences, it was a bum note to go out on.

Time to invest for success

Mike Rowbottom, in Atlanta, asks what the future holds for British athletics

The French sports paper *L'Equipe* carried a cartoon last week featuring the massive form of David Douillet, the heavyweight judo player who earned France's first gold of the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Douillet's huge head and shoulders served as a base for other French medalists to stand on; the words underneath read: "When the podium is so solid..." France's startling success at the Games - on the first weekend alone they earned nine medals, as many as their total at the 1976 Olympics - involved a number of factors.

French athletes receive direct government funding - 0.19 per cent of the national budget - and have access to a Central Institute of Sport in Paris as well as Centres of Excellence scattered around the country and a high-altitude centre at Font Romeu, in the Pyrenees.

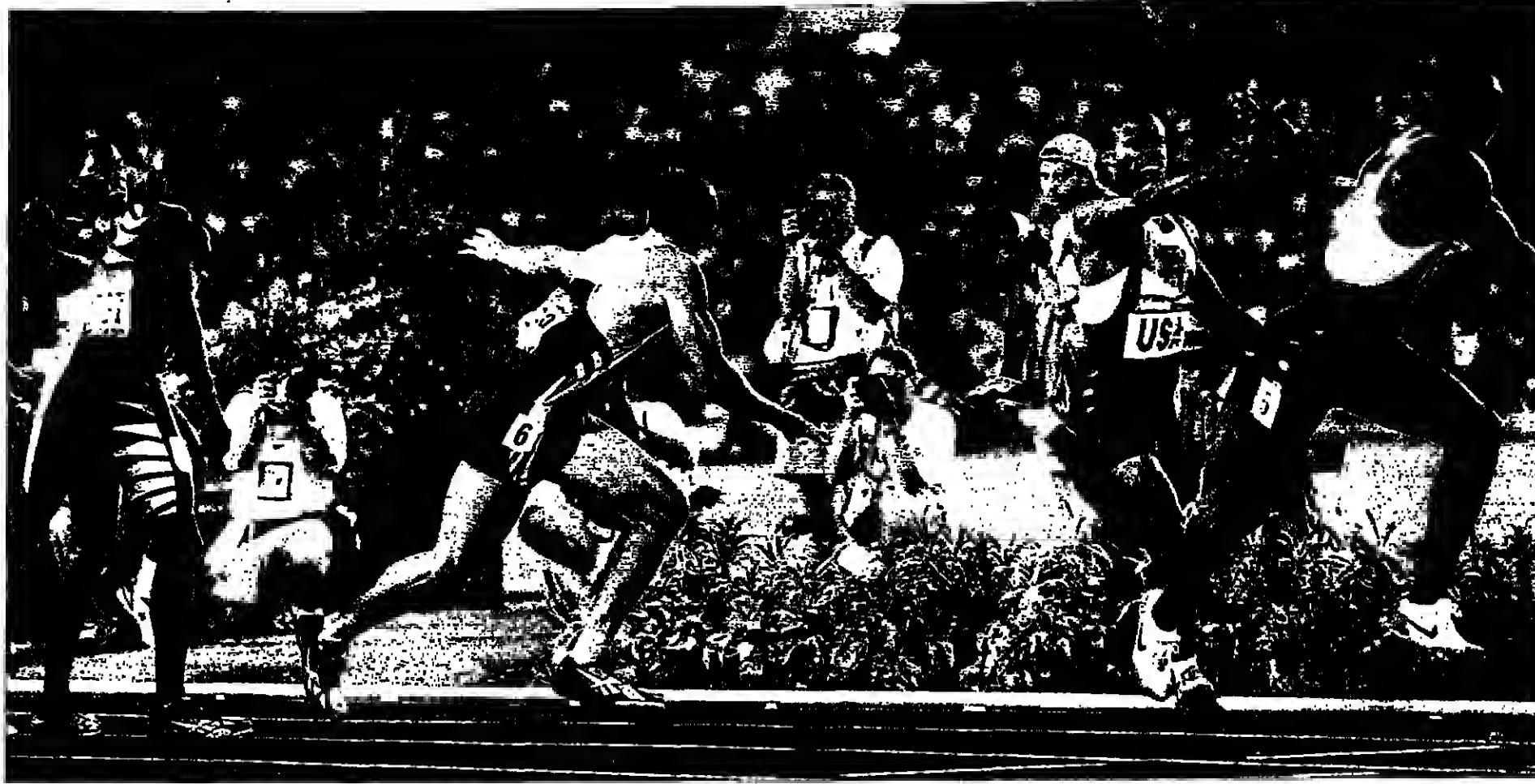
Top performers also receive a performance-related subsidy designed to prevent them over-competing, which adds an edge when major championships come round. But those who have followed France's fortunes over the years give a Gallic shrug when asked to identify the main reason why there have been so many medals for them in Atlanta.

That intangible, the Douillet factor in France's case, appears

to have created a spiral of success. Seven years ago, Kriss Akabusi's surprise 400m hurdles victory in the opening event of the European Cup had a similarly stimulating effect upon a British men's team which went on to win the trophy for the first and only time.

The man who lifted the cup at Gateshead, Linford Christie, has performed a similarly inspiring function at a succession of major championships since then, albeit that his wins became expected rather than hoped for. Christie's ill-starred performances here left the British searching elsewhere for inspiration. Those to whom they would have looked in recent years - Sally Gunnell, Colin Jackson - were undermined by injury. There was no Douillet podium on to which others could leap.

Christie has said for several years that he will only be truly appreciated when he is gone. In terms of international championship competition, that is now the situation. When the big tree comes down, it gives the little trees around it more light, and Britain's up-and-coming sprinters are likely to grow in stature. But when it comes to occasions such as the Olympics, that light will become the glare of expectation that Christie has had to operate in for most of his career.



Links in the chain: Britain's Roger Black (centre) prepares to receive the baton in the men's 4x400m Olympic final from Mark Richardson (far left)

Photograph: David Ashdown

The task facing Britain's young sprinters, such as Ian Mackie, who was prevented from contesting the 100m semi-finals because of a hamstring injury, Darren Campbell, Jason Gardener and the junior talent Dwayne Chambers is daunting. They have a big gap to make up before they reach the top level, but Britain's chief coach, Malcolm Arnold, believes it can be done.

"We have a good crop of young sprinters," he said. "Ian Mackie has a big future, as does Darren Campbell if he can be persuaded to concentrate on training this winter rather than playing football. He has run 10.17sec after starting his proper training in February."

The situation in the 400 metres is different in that a new generation of talent has already made the transition from promise to achievement. Three of the four silver medalists in the relay, Iwan Thomas, Jamie Baulch and Mark Richardson, are in their early twenties, with potential for further improvement.

And there are others: David Grindley, the former British record holder, is 24 and is due a run of good fortune after injuries; Mark Hylton, Richardson's training partner who ran in the first round of the relay, does not turn 20 until next month. Angela Thorp, the 23-year-old Yorkshire athlete, is another

for whom further good things appear to be in store after her performance here in beating Gunnell's eight-year-old 100m hurdles record. Although Thorp is still some distance from the peak of her event, she could take some significant steps between now and the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

If things work out according to plan, she could be joined there by the junior high hurdler Natasha Danvers, who will compete at the World Junior Championships in Sydney later this month before taking up an athletics scholarship at the University of California.

Others who have competed here can look towards Sydney

with growing confidence. At 23, Nick Buckfield is still improving in the pole vault. At the same age, the high jumper Steve Smith already has a collection of major medals, including the bronze from Atlanta, and he is likely to be even stronger four years hence.

Kelly Holmes, whose medal ambitions were crucially hampered by a hairline fracture in her leg, has the talent and attitude at 26 to come back to more profitable effect in the 800 and 1500 metres.

At 27, Steve Backley, too, looks as if he will continue to win javelin medals at the highest level for many years to come following his silver here

after a remarkably swift recovery from an operation on his Achilles tendon.

Jonathan Edwards, Britain's sole world champion, can retain his triple jump title in Athens next year with a little fine tuning. Frustratingly, Edwards failed to sort out his technique for most of the final, invalidating two huge efforts because his foot had impinged the Plasticine marking the take-off board. But if he feels happy to continue - and there were times this season when that did not appear to be the case - he has all the ability he needs.

With a little more luck - especially with the timing of injuries - Britain's athletes might

have come out of these Games with a golden rather than a silver lining. But if the relative lack of success prompts the Government to direct some more funds towards the sporting arena, it will have served a larger purpose.

Matters need to be attended to in earnest, however: the new financial year for the British Athletic Federation begins on October 1, and Arnold has no idea at present of what kind of budget he will be operating with.

"The Government simply has to decide whether it wants excellence or not," Arnold said. "If it does, it is going to have to pay for it."

THE REAL WINNERS AND LOSERS AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES

They do not spring readily to mind when one thinks of the world's premier sporting nations: Tonga and the Bahamas. Yet the fact that these micro-nations, one in the Pacific, the other in the Caribbean, managed to win medals at all, when much larger states failed completely, shows what small nations can achieve.

Sport is a great international leveller, though you would never know it to hear the trumpeting of the big boys at Atlanta. The US won more medals than any other state - but it is larger than

most other states. Size is not everything, to compile our list of winners and losers, we have tried to take that into account. We have first calculated a score for each country - four points for gold, two for silver and one for bronze. Then we divided that score by the size of the country. So, at one end of the scale, Tonga won a point for every 50,000 Tongans; at the other, Britain won a point for every two million, and mighty China scored one for every 10 million.

That puts the US victory in context.

It did well, but no better than its size would suggest. But it also puts Britain's performance in context: it scored worse than any other EU state apart from Luxembourg (pop. 400,000), which won no medals. Once past Tonga and the Bahamas, the real success stories emerge - and again they are in the Caribbean and Pacific. Cuba managed a total of 25 medals; Jamaica, its nearest neighbour, also did spectacularly well for its size. Both Australia and New Zealand did much better than the

straightforward medal rankings would suggest. From eastern Europe, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic were all high scorers. Northern Europe also did well - all of the Scandinavians are in the top 20. Ireland's success is also highlighted, placing it at No 8. Only four African nations make it to the top 50: Namibia, Botswana, Kenya and South Africa. If we even out the scales further by adding in the wealth of each country - money helps to win gold - then the dominance of Cuba is more obvious.

This time, we have divided the annual economic output of each nation by its point score. Cuba's GDP is a hard figure to calculate, but it seems clear that it has outperformed its much richer (and larger) neighbour to the north, Jamaica, too, shows its form. The East European nations come through much more strongly as the real champions, but it is the expanding nations of Asia which disappoint. Even when size and income are taken into consideration, they are well down the table.

Andrew Marshall, Foreign Editor

	Population (millions)	GOLD (4pts)	SILVER (2pts)	BRONZE (1pt)	Total medals points	Points per head GDP* (ranking)	Points per head population
1. Tonga	0.1	0	1	0	2	107.0 (78)	50,000
2. Bahamas	0.3	0	1	0	2	1.6 (139)	150,000
3. Cuba	11.0	9	8	8	60	0.2 (51)	183,300
4. New Zealand	3.5	3	2	1	17	2.6 (32)	205,900
5. Jamaica	2.5	1	3	2	12	0.3 (2)	208,300
6. Hungary	10.0	7	4	10	46	0.8 (11)	217,400
7. Australia	18.0	9	9	23	77	0.4 (40)	235,800
8. Ireland	3.5	3	0	1	13	3.5 (37)	269,200
9. Denmark	5.2	4	1	1	19	7.2 (44)	273,700
10. Slovakia	2.0	1	1	1	7	1.6 (19)	285,700
11. Norway	4.3	2	2	3	15	7.6 (46)	286,700
12. Bulgaria	9.0	3	7	5	31	0.3 (2)	290,300
13. Switzerland	7.0	4	3	0	22	11.5 (54)	315,000
14. Namibia	1.5	0	2	0	4	0.7 (8)	375,000
15. Czech Republic	10.3	4	3	4	24	1.4 (14)	386,200
16. Greece	10.0	4	4	0	24	3.6 (39)	416,700
17. Netherlands	15.2	4	4	10	36	8.9 (48)	422,200
18. Belarus	10.2	1	8	8	24	1.2 (15)	425,000
19. Sweden	8.7	2	4	2	18	11.9 (52)	469,300
20. Slovenia	2.0	0	2	0	4	0.4 (5)	500,000
21. Finland	5.0	1	2	1	9	10.9 (50)	555,800
22. Romania	22.0	4	7	9	39	0.7 (9)	564,100
23. Germany	81.0	20	18	27	143	13.3 (54)	566,400
24. France	58.0	15	7	15	99	13.1 (53)	585,900
25. Armenia	3.6	1	1	0	6	0.5 (7)	590,000
26. Trinidad-Tobago	1.3	0	0	2	2	2.5 (30)	650,000
27. Italy	56.0	13	10	12	84	13.5 (55)	669,700
28. South Korea	43.3	7	15	5	63	5.4 (43)	687,800
29. Canada	29.3	3	11	8	42	13.7 (57)	697,600
30. Kazakhstan	17.0	3	4	4	24	1.0 (12)	709,300
31. Belgium	10.0	2	2	2	14	15.6 (60)	714,400
32. Costa Rica	3.3	1	0	0	4	1.8 (24)	825,000
33. Croatia	5.0	1	1	0	6	2.9 (19)	834,300
34. Poland	38.0	7	5	5	43	2.0 (26)	884,700
35. Russia	148.0	26	21	18	162	2.2 (27)	893,600
36. Ukraine	51.0	9	2	12	52	2.2 (27)	890,800
37. United States	253.0m	44	32	28	265	24.1 (67)	894,700
38. Spain	39.0	5	6	8	39	14.1 (58)	1,026,300
39. Latvia	2.6	0	1	0	2	3.0 (34)	1,300,000
40. Yugoslavia	10.4	1	1	2	8	1.3 (16)	1,300,000

	Population (millions)	GOLD (4pts)	SILVER (2pts)	BRONZE (1pt)	Total medals points	Points per head GDP* (ranking)	Points per head population
41. Moldova	4.4	0	1	0	2	5.7 (22)	1,365,700
42. Burundi	6.0	1	0	0	4	0.3 (2)	1,500,000
43. Hong Kong	6.1	1	0	0	4	27.9 (69)	1,525,600
44. Kenya	25.9	1	4	3	15	0.4 (5)	1,726,700
45. North Korea	22.2	2	1	2	12	1.8 (25)	1,850,000
46. Portugal	9.8	1	0	1	5	17.6 (63)	1,850,000
47. Austria	7.8	0	1	2	4	46.3 (70)	1,875,000
48. Britain	58.4	1	8	6	26	40.2 (71)	1,875,000
49. Mongolia	2.3	0	0	1	1	6.7 (6)	1,875,000
50. South Africa	39.7	3	1	1	15	7.9 (47)	2,646,700
51. Ecuador	5.4	0	0	2	2	1.5 (35)	2,700,000
52. Ecuador	11.0	1	0	0	4	2.8 (33)	2,750,000
53. Algeria	28.7	2	0	3	9	5.3 (42)	2,867,000
54. Syria	13.7	1	0	0	4	3.1 (35)	3,425,000
55. Turkey	68.0	2	0	1	19	9.3 (49)	3,473,000
56. Puerto Rico	3.5	0	0	1	1	21.4 (85)	3,500,000
57. Lithuania	3.7	0	0	1	1	5.0 (41)	3,700,000
58. Japan	124.5	3	6	5	29	134.8 (77)	4,283,100
59. Zambia	8.9	0	1	0	2	1.7 (22)	4,460,000
60. Israel	5.3	0	0	1	1	73.0 (74)	5,300,000
61. Ethiopia	51.5	2	0	1	9	1.1 (43)	5,766,700
62. Brazil	156.5	3	3	9	27	17.0 (61)	5,766,700
63. Malaysia	18.2	0	1	1	3	20.0 (64)	5,766,700
64. Argentina	33.8	0	2	1	5	49.1 (73)	6,400,900
65. Nigeria	105.3	2	1	3	13	22.2 (67)	6,760,000
66. Tunisia	8.8	0	0	1	1	15.0 (59)	8,100,000
67. Iran	64.2	1	1	1	7	21.5 (80)	8,600,000
68. China	1,196	16	22	12	120	5.5 (37)	9,967,000
69. Taiwan	21.0	0	1	0	2	100.0 (75)	10,560,000
70. Thailand	57.6	1	0	1	3	24.5 (68)	11,520,000
71. Morocco	25.9	0	0	2	2	13.3 (54)	12,960,000
72. Uzbekistan	41.0	0	1	4	5	7.3 (45)	13,666,700
73. Mozambique	15.1	0	0	1	1	4.1 (77)	15,000,000
74. Uganda	19.8	0	0	0	0	3.4 (38)	19,000,000
75. Indonesia	199.7	1	2	2	7	17.9 (62)	22,962,700
76. Azerbaijan	55.0	0	1	0	2	2.6 (31)	27,500,000
77. Philippines	84.8	0	1	0	2	27.8 (68)	32,200,000
78. Mexico	90.0	0	0	1	1	335.8 (79)	90,000,000
79. India	901.5	2	0	1	3	263.7 (78)	220,560,000

FINAL RESULTS FROM ATLANTA

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1. United States	44	32	28	104
2. Russia	26	21	27	74
3. France	15	12	12	39
4. China	16	22	12	50
5. Germany	13	11	12	36
6. Australia	9	9	23	41
7. Italy	13	11	12	36
8. Ukraine	9	2	12	23
9. South Korea	7	15	16	38
10. Canada	3	11	8	22
11. Hungary	7	4	10	21
12. Spain	5	6	8	19
13. Czech Republic	4	3	4	11
14. Belarus	4	8	8	20
15. Slovakia	1	8	8	17
16. Bulgaria	3	7	5	15
17. Romania	4	7	9	20
18. Greece	4	4	10	18
19. Netherlands	4	4	10	18
20. Portugal	1	0	1	2
21. Armenia	1	1	0	2
22. Kazakhstan	3	4	4	11
23. Belgium	2	2	2	6
24. Poland	7	5	5	17
25. Slovenia	0	2	0	2
26. Croatia	1	1	0	2
27. Latvia	0	1	0	1
28. Lithuania	0	0	1	1
29. Moldova	0	1	0	1
30. Montenegro	0	0	1	1
31. Serbia	0	0	1	1
32. Tajikistan	0	0	1	1
33. Turkmenistan	0	0	1	1
34. Uzbekistan	0	0	1	1
35. Azerbaijan	0	1	0	1
36. Georgia	0	0	1	1

SPORT

Play INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL
See tomorrow's 12-page summer of sport section to register

Spectacular capitulation by Kent

Cricket

DAVID LLEWELLYN
reports from Canterbury
Worce 459-9 dec & 207-6
Kent 386 & 108-9
Worce won by 192 runs

The party mood had already disappeared after a demoralising Sunday League defeat, but, for the benefit of those who missed that poor show, Kent's batsmen obliged with a re-run, which if anything was more spectacular. They were without their injured England all-rounder,

Mark Ealham, who will be out for at least the next two matches with a pulled rib muscle, as well as their stand-in captain, Steve Marsh.

Even so, to surrender their unbeaten Championship record in such a fashion was abysmal. A pre-lunch collapse when five wickets went down for 35 runs in 57 balls was followed by an early afternoon capitulation and all this when, with 84 overs remaining, they had been set what appeared to be a generous target of 301. They never got off the oche, let alone near the bull.

They scored 27 fewer runs yesterday than they had the day before, but Daryl Foster, the Kent coach, was stoical. "The batting was no better today," he admitted. "It was frenetic and lacking concentration. But it's not the end of the world. It's just a hiccup. We still have everything to play for."

In the mid-morning calm before Worcestershire stormed all over them, it was announced that the Kent players were going to be sponsored by up to 15 individuals for every run scored and wicket taken, the proceeds going towards Kent

Kids Miles of Smiles appeal, for the building of a holiday home in Canterbury. With the way things turned out, there could be a long wait for those children.

Tom Moody, the Worcestershire captain, must have had a premonition when he called off Steven Rhodes and Stuart Lampitt after they had tormented the Kent attack for a further 40 minutes in the morning to take their seventh-wicket partnership to 76.

At no point did the pair, who had piled on 159 together first time around, look in any trouble on a pitch that had grown

more unpredictable over the weekend.

But the Kent bowlers, perhaps hampered with an old ball, were unable to exploit the occasional lifter and the odd shooter. Worcestershire's bowlers, notably the left-arm seamer Alamgir Sheriyyar, had no problem, although if they had, you were left with the impression that one or two of the Kent batsmen would have helped them.

Sheriyyar did not spark the fall though. That came because of temptation, David Fulton called for a run to Tim Curtis coming

in from mid-off to short extra. Matthew Walker did not quite see things the same way and stood his ground, sending back his partner. Fulton turned frantically but Curtis's throw beat him comfortably.

Two balls later Walker presented Fulton with an earlier than expected opportunity to discuss the run-out when Moody tempted him into chasing a wider ball which resulted in a catch behind. Then it was Sheriyyar's turn.

In the space of 15 balls he excised the heart of the Kent innings, seeding back Kent's

second stand-in captain Carl Hooper, Nigel Llong and finally Trevor Ward, and all at a cost of just four runs. He finished with 4 for 58.

Matthew Fleming flowered briefly, but all the while he is in bloom he is not putting down any roots, and when Sheriyyar got one that appeared to stop on him he was only able to chip it tamely to Curtis. Lampitt brought a merciful end to the proceedings with the last three wickets in a little more than two overs.

Photograph, more reports, Scoreboard, page 21

Top of the table					
Team	P	W	L	D	Net Run Rate
Leeds	11	8	1	2	37.177
Worce	11	6	4	2	37.177
Surrey	12	11	5	1	36.471
Nottingham	11	11	5	2	37.25
Derby	11	11	5	2	35.182
Leeds	11	11	5	1	35.182

Remaining fixtures

Leeds	Gloucestershire	(a)	Warwickshire	(h)
Worce	Surrey	(a)	Nottingham	(h)
Surrey	Leeds	(a)	Nottingham	(h)
Nottingham	Warwickshire	(a)	Warwickshire	(h)
Warwickshire	Leeds	(a)	Warwickshire	(h)
Warwickshire	Leeds	(a)	Warwickshire	(h)
Warwickshire	Leeds	(a)	Warwickshire	(h)
Warwickshire	Leeds	(a)	Warwickshire	(h)
Warwickshire	Leeds	(a)	Warwickshire	(h)
Warwickshire	Leeds	(a)	Warwickshire	(h)

Nicorette in maxi class of own as the big boats battle it out during Cowes Week



Maxi factor: The Grand Mistral 80 yacht Nicorette heads towards line honours in the maxi class race off the Isle of Wight yesterday. Report, page 21

Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

Olympic athletes face ban

Drugs in sport

A Bulgarian triple jumper and a Russian hurdler yesterday became the first athletes to be caught using steroids at the Atlanta Olympic Games and face four-year bans.

The International Olympic Committee said Iva Prandzheva and Natalya Shekodonova tested positive for banned performance-enhancing drugs. The International Olympic Committee director general, Francois Carrard, said Prandzheva, fourth in the women's triple jump, tested positive for metandione and had been disqualified.

Prandzheva was a silver medalist at the 1995 world outdoor and indoor championships and gold medalist at the European indoor championships earlier this year.

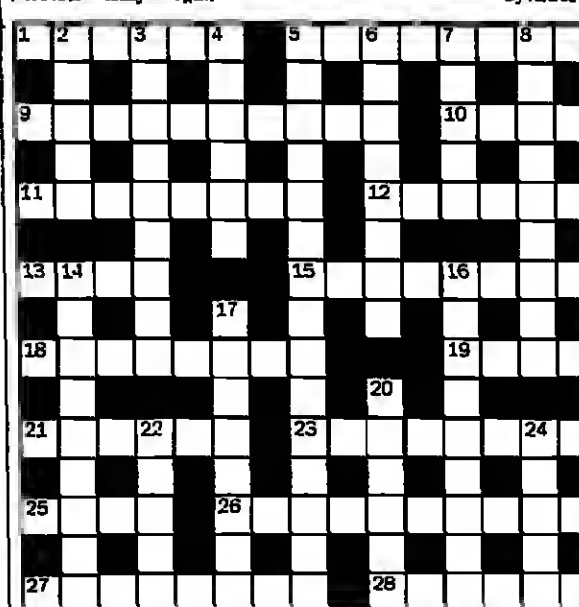
Prince Alexandre de Merode, chairman of the IOC medical commission, said Shekodonova tested positive for stanozolol. De Merode said the analysis of Shekodonova's second sample had still to be confirmed but if positive, her seventh-place finish in the women's 100 metres hurdles will be thrown out.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport expanded upon their decision to reinstate four Russian competitors who had used bromantan: "It was not proven that bromantan is a stimulant to a standard sufficient to justify a sanction as severe as the withdrawal of medals from the athletes. Accordingly, they granted the athletes the benefit of the doubt."

Nick Gillingham, the British swimmer who stands to lose a bronze medal as a result of this decision, spoke of taking the matter to court. "I am very bitter and very, very sad that it has happened in the last race of my career," he said. "In some ways, I guess you could say I am pleased to be retiring at this stage if this is what the sport is coming to."

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3058, Tuesday 6 August By Aclard



- ACROSS**
- Noble carries reduced-weight metal alloy (6)
 - Unmarried composer has role to play (8)
 - Nothing results from its action (6,4)
 - Here here could be found in here (4)
 - Humanitarian organisation makes left-winger angry (3,5)
 - Stick? It's abandoned in haste (6)
 - New Zealander stages King & I before Women's Institute (4)
 - Not professional about shipwrecked ketch's security feature (5)
 - Pony's mistreated in man's unconscious state (8)
 - Use rope to give support to tree by lake (4)
 - One who has joined male's a bit ardent? (6)
 - Angular figure hid broom away (8)
 - Fruit of toil guarded on return (4)
 - Learned use I had to change to restore the status quo (10)
 - Sue from badly getting a complaint (8)
 - Something relaxing for the rest of the 24 hours (3-3)
 - Tell story right away and give cheer (5)
 - What might come after an S-bend? (1-8)
 - Inflexible person erects somewhere to sleep by a river (6)

Monday's Solution

FORAGE PRECIOUS
RAO A O L L
AUTOLYOUS NOISE
G T O Y E G V I
MALACHI SHOWING
E R O A N H
NURSE NO LONGER
S P L U
CONTRACT MISER
I F T N B M I
REPAIRING EVENING
I T S Y W R U
FACTS INMAMMENT
L E A N Y N A O
EARNINGS BENEFIT

GREENS IN EU PARLIAMENT? (8,7)
Improve an urban place's space (6)
Facility will get Liberal's support (5)
Reportedly sent off? (9)
Measure supporting growth of good US universities (3,6)
Rustic's not plain about what must be paid (4-5)
They will be bowed but show little modesty? (1-7)
Awful car brought into house one day (6)
Heath has French cheese on river (5)
Is to take legal action to get children recognised legally (5)

Wednesday reject Lombardo's demands

Football

PHIL SHAW

On the day it was estimated that Alan Shearer would earn more than £6 per second of competitive action in the new season. Sheffield Wednesday took a stand against the "crazy money" being sought by some players who they pulled out of a £3.7m deal for the Italian international Attilio Lombardo.

Wednesday, whose record outlay stands at the £2.75m paid for Des Walker and Andy Sinton, took their stand after talks with the Juventus winger's lawyer. Lombardo's wage demands were reportedly in excess of Shearer's "basic" of £1.3m a year with Newcastle, a sum the Premiership club were unwilling to pay a 30-year-old player.

"We're very disappointed," Wednesday's secretary, Graham Mackrell, said. "After we worked very hard and agreed a fee with Juventus, and went to Italy twice, the player's expectations were such that we had to pull out. The offer would have made him one of the highest-paid players in England, but we weren't prepared to pay what can only be described as crazy money."

Queen's Park Rangers changed hands yesterday - for two-thirds of Shearer's transfer fee - when the entertainment

entrepreneur Chris Wright paid £10m to end the Thompson family's seven-year controlling interest. The new owner, whose business interests began when he co-founded the Chrysler record label in the 1960s, said: "I'm delighted the deal is done, but sorry it has taken so long."

Wright has also completed his takeover of Walsley rugby union club, who will play some Courage League fixtures at Loftus Road next season. "We're now in a position to sort out some of the operational details of how the two clubs will be working side by side," he said.

Meanwhile, Tyneside surrendered to Shearman and Sterling yesterday, when the final 5,000 tickets for the England striker's debut in Sunday's Charity Shield match were snapped up. Around 600 supporters camped overnight outside St James' Park to ensure their places at Wembley.

Newcastle's opponents in the curtain raiser, Manchester United, welcomed Karel Poborsky, their £3.5m midfielder from the Czech Republic, to training for the first time yesterday. Jordi Cruyff's £1m move from Barcelona should be completed today, but Roy Keane may miss Sunday's game.

The Irishman, who is pursuing a knee injury, was withdrawn during the weekend win at Nottingham Forest after the referee, David Elleray, advised Alex Ferguson to substitute him following several reckless challenges. Elleray warned yesterday that the Charity Shield referee, Paul Durkin, would have "no room for such discretion" in a game which provided a "benchmark" for disciplinary standards.

Chris Sutton, the less celebrated half of Blackburn's disbanded SAS striking partnership, may be fit to start the season after learning that the injury he sustained in Saturday's friendly at Colchester was nothing more than soft tissue damage. Blackburn initially feared a broken leg.

Nottingham Forest are ready to sell Andrea Silenzi, but cannot find a taker for the giant striker who made only seven first-team appearances last season and scored just two goals. Silenzi arrived for £1.8m from Torino a year ago but never really impressed at the City Ground.

Middlesbrough hope that their record buy from Italy, Fabrizio Ravanelli, will receive his international clearance in time for his debut against his former club Juventus tonight. Middlesbrough have sold the Bolivian forward, Jaime Moreno, to the Major League Soccer side Washington DC United for £100,000.

In tomorrow's 12-page summer of sport

When will Gianluca Vialli, Roberto Di Matteo and Franck Lebourer first sample the delights of Roker Park?
When will Alan Shearer make his emotional return for Newcastle to Ewood Park?

And when will Exeter City make the long trip north to Carlisle?
For all these answers and more see tomorrow's Independent for the complete fixture lists of the FA Carling Premiership, the Nationwide Football League and the Bell's Scottish Premier Division.

Morgan WAREHOUSE SURPLUS OUTLET

"For the hardened and knowledgeable PC buyer, Morgan is rapidly becoming something of a Mecca!"
The Independent

DTK P75MHz
Complete Multimedia PC
AMD P75MHz processor, 850Mb drive, 8Mb RAM, 1.44Mb floppy, Pentium PCI motherboard, 1Mb PCI video, quad speed CD, 16 bit sound card, cables & speakers, 14" 28 colour monitor, DOS and Windows 3.1. **£699⁹⁹**

OLIVETTI 4 ppm Laser
GDI & DOS
PG 304 GDI "Windows" laser printer, 300 dpi resolution, Windows 95 plug and play, 512K print buffer, 4 ppm printing speed, PCL 4 emulation for DOS needs. **£199⁹⁹**

DIGITAL 600 dpi Colour
Ink Jet Printer
DEC White 500c, full colour printer, fast 5 ppm speed (400 CPS), high resolution, 5 resident fonts, Windows compat, integral sheet feeder, HP Deskjet emulation, parallel & USB. **£149⁹⁹**

TFT NOTEBOOK 28.8 MODEM
Philips Famous Brand
486DX2 50MHz, 340Mb drive, 8Mb RAM, superb quality TFT colour screen, sound card, mains/battery, DOS 6.22/Win 3.1. **£999⁹⁹**

CHICONY 486SX
Previously designed for IBM's Amibo division - 25MHz chip, 250Mb drive, 4Mb RAM, external floppy, mono screen, DOS & Win. **£549⁹⁹**

ESCOM P60
Now Inc 16Mb RAM
Intel P60 processor, 540Mb, 16Mb RAM, 1Mb video, 14" 28 SVGA colour monitor, keyboard, DOS & Windows 3.1. Factory refurbished plus a full 1 year warranty. **£599⁹⁹**

IBM 486-50
Desktop System
486SX2 50MHz chip, 120Mb drive, 4Mb RAM, 1.44Mb floppy, 1Mb video, PCMCIA expandability, keyboard, 14" mono VGA, DOS & Windows 3.1. Colour upgrade £50. **£349⁹⁹**

Morgan Computer Co.
64-72 New Oxford Street, London WC1 0171-255 2115
179 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 0171-636 1138
34 Edgemon Centre, Hoxley Road, Birmingham 16 0121-422 1141
Unit 11-12, Station Approach, Potters Bar, Herts 01763-221 1111
MAIL ORDER 0121-456 5565 FAX 0121-456 5564
Prices ex VAT (17.5%) and delivery. Goods subject to availability. E & OE

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Milton Colson Print, St Apurva Road, Watford
Mail orders available from Historic Newspapers, 0900 400019
Founded in 1822. Reprinted by a newspaper with the Print Office.

هذا من الأصل